

# The Chronicle

of the Early American Industries Association, Inc.

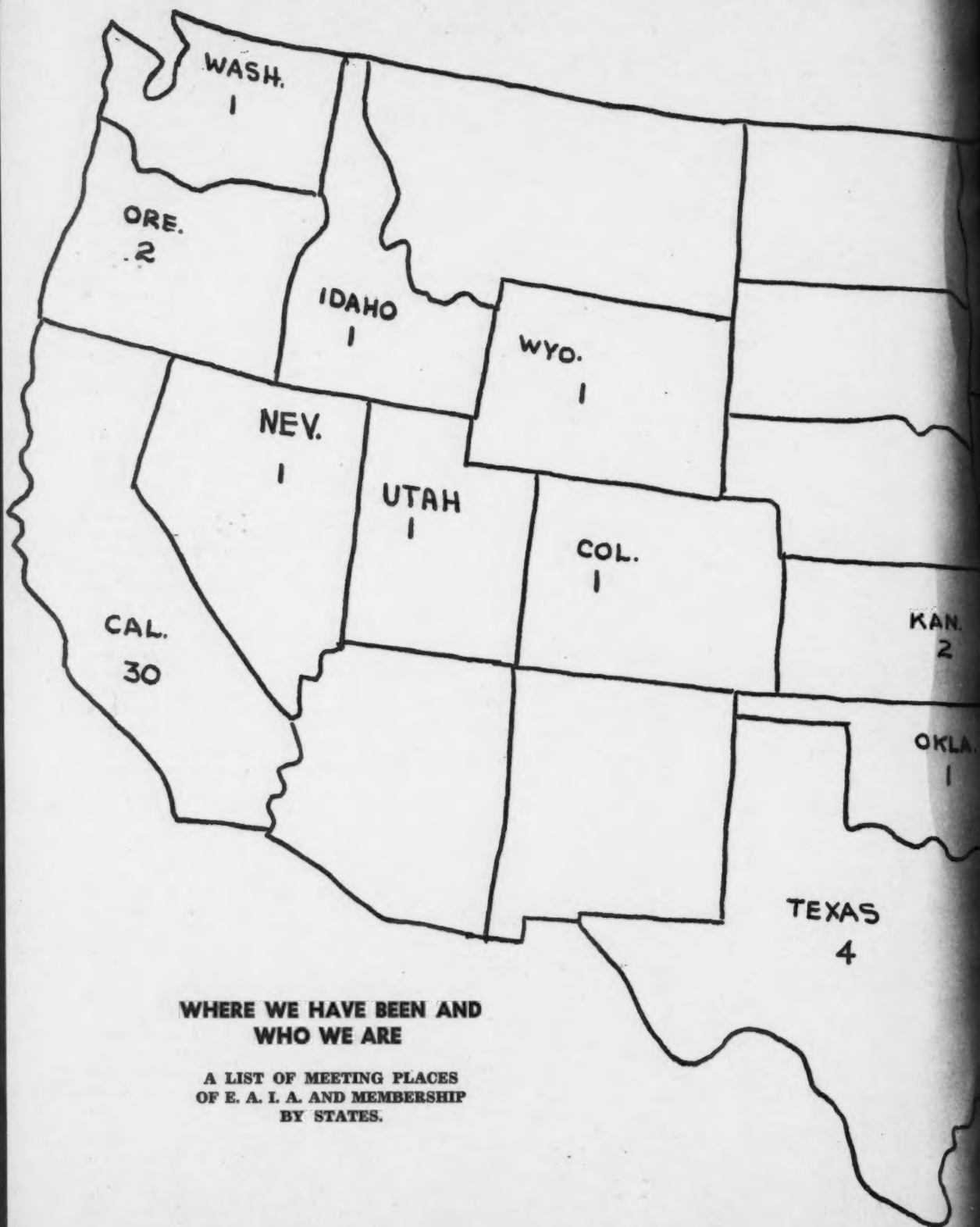
Volume XI

October, 1958

Number 3



25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary



**WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND  
WHO WE ARE**

**A LIST OF MEETING PLACES  
OF E. A. I. A. AND MEMBERSHIP  
BY STATES.**

N.  
2

KLA.  
1

s  
4  
f  
th  
v  
to  
p  
A  
es  
n  
ar  
so

st  
du  
se  
an  
me  
by  
pr

Ta  
of  
tio  
of  
ha  
att  
me  
ins  
Th  
lect  
Ta  
hou

rua  
Cal  
mee  
very  
'Wi  
as t  
The  
'Oro  
very  
velop  
whit  
hand  
goug  
gentl  
teres  
fine  
wood  
speci  
not  
wood  
am S  
was a  
the k



# Early American Industries

## THE HISTORY OF THE E.A.I.A.

Page 25

by Loring McMillen, Vice President

It is a proud achievement for an organization of the size and of the widely scattered membership of the *Early American Industries Association* to have passed successfully through a quarter century of existence, spread over the broad expanse of our country and sustained by the voluntary services of dedicated people. It is both a tribute to the founders and their successors, as well as to the great purpose which has welded the Association together. The Association was founded in 1933 during one of the greatest economic crisis ever to face our country, and was nurtured through this period and a great World War, and at no time did it fail in fulfilling the following aims so well stated by the founders:

"The purpose of the Association is to encourage the study and better understanding of early American industry, in the home, in the shop, on the farm and on the sea, and especially to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men and other workers."

On August 31, 1933, there gathered at Wiggins Old Tavern at Northhampton Hotel, Massachusetts, a group of 16 men and women interested in forming an Association to carry out this purpose. According to the first issue of the *Chronicle*, the inspiration for the meeting had come from William B. Sprague, a New York City attorney, and collector of early American tools and implements. He combined both an historian's and a collector's instincts with a talent for organization and leadership. These traits were also found in Lewis N. Wiggins, collector, owner and proprietor of the "Old Wiggins' Tavern" setting for his fine collection of shop, farm and household relics.

In a letter to President Fred C. Sabin, dated February 26, 1958, Mr. Wiggins, now living in Los Angeles, California, gives us the events which led to the first meeting. "My memory is clear of our early days — the very first day, in fact. I was in the north room of my 'Wiggins' Old Tavern' — the room that was later known as the 'kitchen'. It was entered from the parking lot. The first room I had developed was known as the 'Ordinary', the next room was the 'Tap Room'. On this very hot summer afternoon, I was working on the development of the 'Kitchen'. I was hanging on the east, whitewashed wall a number of treasured tools. In my hand was an exceptionally interesting hand wrought steel gouge with wooden (butternut) handle. Behind me a gentleman spoke, 'I see, Mr. Wiggins, that you are interested in preserving treasures. Do you know what that fine tool was made for?' I replied, 'It is a gouge for woodworking.' Then he asked me if I knew for what special purpose it was made and when I told him I did not know, he said, 'It was especially for gouging out wooden bowls.' I thanked him and asked his name. 'I am S. C. Wolcott and I live in Nutall, Virginia.' He was a charming, intelligent gentleman. We sat down in the kitchen on chairs of the early 1700's and discussed

the various articles in that room; things that were for display and for use, as I was about ready to open that room to the public and service of food, as was in the Ordinary and the Tap Room. Mr. Wolcott said, 'I spend several weeks each summer browsing around New England. I have met several interesting men who are collecting, preserving and studying the early tools and crafts of America. We should get together and form an association for mutual aid and pleasure. I have a very fine collection of carpenters' tools that some day I shall give to the Williamsburg Restoration.' I replied, 'Please invite these gentlemen — as many as you like — to meet here at Wiggins' Old Tavern as my guests for luncheon, then we can discuss plans for an organization. At any rate we would like the opportunity of becoming acquainted.'

"To my joy, within a few days, he telephoned that W. B. Sprague and S. E. Gage, then at their summer homes in Litchfield, Connecticut, and Albert Wells, of Southbridge, Massachusetts, would be at hand on a certain day for a 'get-together' luncheon. I telephoned a friend of mine, Earl T. Goodnow, of West Cumington, Massachusetts, an interesting, intelligent collector of Early Americana, to meet with us for luncheon. It seems to me it was July, 1930. After luncheon we held our first meeting."

Mr. Wiggins may refer to the August 31, 1933 meeting and can well be pardoned the error in date, since dates, like statistics, are boring to most people. From his first hand information, we gather that Stephen Wolcott had the germ of the idea of an organization and when discussing this thought with Mr. Sprague found him a willing and able organizer who immediately took up the formal steps leading to the forming of an organization.

Miss Dorothy Barck has made available from the official files of the Association at Cooperstown an interesting report dated July 20, 1933, made by Mr. Sprague containing his comments and plans after receiving answers to a circular and questionnaire he had mailed. The circular of which no copy is at present available, evidently asked for comments on the proposed name of the Association, the need and wish for a permanent organization, place and time of meeting and interests of those to whom the circular was sent.

The answers indicated a desire for a permanent organization and the name *Early American Industries Association*. In Mr. Sprague's report, which was evidently mailed to a list of interested people, he proposed that a meeting be held within 60 days and at Northampton at Mr. Wiggins' invitation. The meeting of August 31 was the result.

The August 19, 1933 issue of *The New York Sun* carried an interesting notice by the antiques editor of the paper and a distinguished member of the E.A.I.A., Charles Messer Stow. "Those who are interested in the early tools and implements of the country will gather at the Hotel Northampton, Northampton, Massachusetts, in the week beginning August 28 to complete the organiza-

## The Chronicle

tion of the *Early American Industries Association* . . . William B. Sprague of New York . . . is the moving spirit of the organization, and in his preparatory work he has succeeded in listing practically all those who collect this sort of material . . . ”

On Friday, September 2, 1933, Mr. Stow announced in his antiques page, “Tool Collectors United in Society, Early American Industries Association Formed. Eighteen collectors of early tools and implements met on Thursday of this week at Wiggins’ Old Tavern, Northampton, Massachusetts, to ratify the organization of the *Early American Industries Association*. Lewis H. Wiggins, himself a notable collector of these things, was host to the group and served a New England boiled dinner, topped off with baked Indian pudding, in the tavern in the midst of the cooking implements of early years.”

This interesting article went on to name those present and the appointed officers, committees and plans including in the latter, “a periodical to serve the interests of the organization.” Mr. Albert B. Wells, of Southbridge, Massachusetts, who made a special trip from Chicago to attend the meeting, promised to defray the cost of printing. The dues were fixed at the “nominal sum of \$1 a year.” It was the consensus of the meeting that two meetings a year were sufficient.

Mr. Stow, until his death in 1951, was ever an enthusiastic supporter of the “Pick and Shovel Club” as he fondly named our Association. Probably more than any other he interpreted our purpose to the outside world as indicated in the May 12, 1934 issue of the *New York Sun*. “More and more does it appear that the *American Industries Association* is setting an example of the utmost importance to those other clubs and organizations which have sprung up in the last two or three years. Its *Chronicle*, a monthly publication, has been the agency for spreading information of the greatest value to collectors of early tools.”

As already stated, the *Early American Industries* was organized at the August 31, 1933, meeting and while the proceedings of the meeting are well covered in the first issue of the *Chronicle* it is well to repeat them here for the completeness of this history. At the suggestion of Mr. Albert B. Wells, Mr. Sprague was made Chairman of the meeting and the proposed association. The group then proceeded to elect Mr. Stephen C. Wolcott, Secretary, and Mr. Earl T. Goodnow, Treasurer. The following list of those present were admitted into membership: F. W. Fuessenich, J. A. Hummerstone, S. E. Gage, A. E. Lownes, Dr. Arthur E. Bye, W. B. Sprague, S. C. Wolcott, A. B. Wells, L. N. Wiggins, E. T. Goodnow, F. L. Thoms, J. C. Hood, Dr. Edward A. Rushford, Emma Fitts Bradford, Florence P. Berger, U. Waldo Cutler. At Mr. Sprague’s suggestion, J. M. Connor, Jr., M. L. Blumenthal, Stephen H. Pell and Charles Messer Stow, who could not attend, were voted upon and admitted.

Mr. Sprague proceeded to outline the specific purposes of the association. Briefly, these were to form an association of people interested in the early tools and implements of America, to arouse interest in these tools, to discover their purposes and uses, to encourage museums to take a greater interest in this field, to encourage dealers

to search for material, to exchange information, and to find a final and permanent depository for collections.

One of the first objectives of the Association was to publish a magazine which would provide a means for carrying out these purposes. On November 20, 1933, less than three months after organization, the first issue of the *Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association* appeared. This number began an unbroken run of a magazine which today comprises the principal source of information relating to the tools and methods of our early industry. With an historic sense reflecting almost entirely the inspiration of the editor, Mr. Wolcott, the first issue, number one, contained much information concerning the beginning of the Association, its founders, purposes list of officers and many other items relating to the *Chronicle* and the Association. The ambitious plan, at first, was to publish the *Chronicle* twelve times each year, and 1934 actually saw seven issues put out. However, by 1941 this pace proved too exacting for a volunteer Editor and the present plan of four issues each year was adopted.

Probably the most important policy which was early established was that the tool and its use was the prime interest of the Association, rather than the product and that the meetings, and particularly articles in the *Chronicle*, would follow this policy.

In the first issue, several other things were established as guiding principles. The only requisite for membership would be an interest in the purposes of the Association, and while commercialism should be avoided, the chief source of material would be dealers and dealers should be admitted to membership and advertisements could be taken. In several of the earlier issues these were printed, but later the plan of an insert was adopted in order to leave the pages free for material pertaining solely to the purposes of the Association.

Twenty-five years ago it was recognized that the old tools were rapidly disappearing, as well as the men who used them and were the sole possessors of the knowledge of their use. It was also recognized that already many unidentified tools were contained in private and public collections and these, and others to be found, should be the objects of an intensive program of identification. From this the “Whatsit” program has developed under the able chairmanship of Mr. Miner Cooper and has become an important part of every meeting. As the name indicates, this program attempts to identify through the members or other means any tools, the name and use of which are unknown.

The *Chronicle* speaks for itself. Beginning with Volume I, No. 2, with the article entitled “Early American Manufacture of Felt Hats” by Mr. Sprague, the combined issues today comprise a thick volume of scholarly articles on our Early American Industry. We shudder to think of what our knowledge of this phase of our American history would be without the *Chronicle*. The first six numbers were prepared under the able editorship of Mr. Wolcott and it was with sadness that the issue of July, 1934, carried the notice of his death, which had occurred on June 15, 1934. He was the first of the founders to go and his passing was keenly felt by those who had the privilege of knowing him. His

fine collection remains as a tribute to his foresight, and as he had planned, has a permanent home at Colonial Williamsburg.

Following Mr. Wolcott's death, Mr. Sprague took on the editorship of the *Chronicle* in addition to his duties as chairman of the Association. On September 1, 1934, the first annual meeting of the Association was held at Wiggins' Tavern and was attended by 68 people. At this meeting a set of rules were adopted and a roster of officers elected. Fittingly, Mr. Sprague was elected President, and Earl T. Goodnow, Secretary and Treasurer. Committees were formed and among the Recruiting, or Membership Committee, the name of John K. Byard stands out as still being one of our active members, both on the Board and as recent chairman of the Membership Committee.

Membership at the time of the first issue of the *Chronicle* in November, 1933, was 26. In the September, 1934, issue the membership was announced as about 300 and in November as 405. This encouraging growth could be attributed to two principal causes: first, to active recruiting by the officers; and second, to a long-felt want among collectors and others for the services which the Association offered.

Due to Mr. Sprague's leadership and enthusiasm, and since his place of business was there, New York became a center of activity. Aided by such able men as S. Edson Gage, Pelham Bolton, Thomas H. Ormsbee, George S. McKearin, Charles M. Stow, and Alexander J. Wall and others, including Lewis Wiggins from Northampton, meetings were held and display space taken at the annual Antiques Expositions. These were exceedingly popular and during the April, 1935 Exposition over 80 members were added to the list. The November, 1935, issue announced the membership as 610. No further membership totals were published until July, 1947, when the list stood at 502. While war and time had taken their toll, the Association had weathered well and today, due to the efforts of several past membership committee chairmen, the membership stands close to 1,000 members.

The second annual meeting of the Association was held at Salem, Massachusetts, on September 7, 1935 and was significant in that it was thought impracticable to hold more than one meeting a year due to the scattered membership. It was thought more advisable to hold local meetings such as already held in New York.

The third annual meeting was held at Wiggins' Old Tavern, Northampton and since Mr. Wiggins was the host, as at the organization meeting in August, 1936, it was no wonder that the meeting was described "by far the most interesting and successful that it (the Association) has yet held."

At this meeting the term "What-is-its?" was first used and the bringing of such unidentifiable items to the meetings first began. The question of incorporating the Association was referred to a committee. This was not finally undertaken until March 23, 1942, when, at a meeting of the Directors held in Mr. Sprague's office in New York, he announced that he had filed a certificate of incorporation in the office of the Secretary of State of New York on March 16, 1942. A code of by-laws prepared by

Mr. Sprague was proposed and adopted and Alexander J. Wall was elected President, Wallace K. Brown, Vice-President, and J. D. Hatch, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. Of the directors present at the time, Mr. Edward Durell, George M. Simmons and Lewis N. Wiggins are still directors.

The fourth annual meeting was also held at Wiggins' Tavern on September 17, 1937 and at this meeting Mr. Sprague, still doubling as President and Editor, announced the completion of Volume I of the *Chronicle* and the preparation of an index. The successful completion of 24 numbers in the space of less than three and a half years was a tribute to the Editor and the many fine contributors. The calibre of their research and writings set a standard which has not lessened through the years. Several of these contributors, notably Lawrence B. Romaine and Mary Earle Gould, still draw upon their great knowledge to enrich the pages of the *Chronicle*.

After five years of leadership, Mr. Sprague declined the nomination for re-election at the fifth annual meeting held at Northampton on August 26, 1938. He continued as Editor and Mr. Lewis N. Wiggins was fittingly nominated and elected President.

On November 21, 1938, the first chapter of the Association was formed in the Hotel Suburban, East Orange, New Jersey, under the able leadership of Wallace K. Brown, an enthusiastic member and collector. The subject of chapters of the Association located in areas where members could meet between annual meetings of the Association with a minimum of travel had been often discussed. The New Jersey Chapter later named the "Sprague" Chapter in honor of the founder, was the first formed, and until the death of Mr. Wallace, the only successful chapter.

The pattern for a Spring meeting of the Association was set when at the invitation of Mr. Alexander Wall, Director of the New York Historical Society, a meeting was held in New York on May 20, 1939. It was duly noted that the enthusiasm of one member, Edward Durell, had brought him all the way from Ohio to attend the meeting. Mr. Durell's enthusiasm has remained unabated and still brings him to the meetings, wherever held, including those between 1947 and 1955 when he so ably served as President.

Mr. Wiggins, due to sickness, resigned the Presidency at the fall meeting, November 3, 1941, held at his Tavern, Northampton, and was succeeded by Mr. Alexander Wall, director of the New York Historical Society. Mr. Wall was a professional historian and as such brought into the Association the need for an historical approach to the collecting of Early American Industry, such as culling through old records and publications, the compilation of data, and the correlation of such data into files, indices and other available forms. This was ably expressed in a letter published in the *Chronicle* in the December, 1941, issue. At this same meeting, Mr. George Simmons, long a member and avid collector, conducted the first of the auctions which have come to be a feature of every second or third annual meeting and a source of revenue to the Association.

A spring meeting of the Association was held May



## The Chronicle

23, 1942, at the *New York Historical Society Building*, New York, and on September 18 and 19 of the same year at Worcester, Massachusetts. At this later meeting, Mr. Warren C. Lane succeeded Mr. Wall as President. This was the last annual meeting held in the fall and the last before and during the War.

On August 22, 1942, the Association lost its principal founder and the one who more than any other was responsible for policies that have guided the Association through the first 25 years of its existence. William Buell Sprague on this date passed away. For a full idea of Mr. Sprague's service to the Association the reader is referred to the pages of the *Chronicle* where his many contributions are recorded. He was one of those rare individuals who not only could plan and administer but in the quiet solitude of his library could conceive and write the scholarly articles on the early industries. Founder, first President, Editor, scholar and writer, these accomplishments he carried easily. I remember him well, short, stocky, florid, always absorbed in his interests, yet considerate as his eager, legal mind sought the answers to his many questions relating to our early industries. His writings remain to enrich our knowledge of these industries and his splendid collection he properly saw fit to leave to the Farmers Museum, Cooperstown, New York.

Only three meetings were held during the War Years, the last an informal one held on June 26, 1943, at the Albany Institute of History and Art. Meetings were renewed in June, 1945, at Northampton, Massachusetts.

With the April, 1944, issue of the *Chronicle*, Volume II was completed and due to the pressure of the war and costs, the gelatin-coated paper format and size was discontinued. At the same time the long existing rate of \$1.00 for each membership and the *Chronicle* was realistically raised to \$2.00 per annum.

During the trying war years, the *Chronicle* continued to be published under the Presidency of Mr. Lane and the Editorship of Mr. John Davis Hatch. The high caliber of the articles and the magazine was in no way lowered during this period.

At the annual meeting held in May, 1946, Mr. Hatch succeeded Mr. Lane as President and, as had Mr. Sprague before him, doubled for a year in the difficult task of President and Editor. He was succeeded by Mr. Edward Durell of Columbus, Ohio, at the Doylestown meeting on May 10, 1947. The annual meeting of May, 1946, marked the first time that elections and the formal business of the Association had been conducted at the Spring meeting, as has been done since this date.

Annual and fall meetings have continued uninterrupted since their brief adjournment during the War. Sturbridge Village, Staten Island, Cooperstown, Peterborough, Smith's Clove, Shelburne, Winston-Salem and back again to many of these and to the old "stands" of Doylestown, Northampton and Salem. To say that any meeting or any place outshines another would be impossible since each place and occasion presented something different and of interest to those attending.

Mr. Durell served longer than any President in the 25 years of the Association's existence, attesting both to his interest and to his leadership and ability. He was

succeeded by Mr. Robert G. Hill at the June 25, 1955, meeting at Old Sturbridge Village, after eight years of service to the Association and of dedication to its purposes. Mr. Hill had served faithfully and successfully as Membership Chairman, in which position he was followed by Joseph W. Rake whose efforts at the present writing have brought the membership close to the 1000 mark.

Membership dues, apart from the revenue from the auctions held at two-year intervals, are the mainstay of the Association. During the last 25 years, due to the rising costs in the publication of the *Chronicle* the basic dues have been raised from the \$1.00 stipend of the depression years, to \$2.00, \$3.00 and finally to \$5.00 in 1952. Other voluntary memberships paying higher dues were established in 1937 to further defray the expenses of the Association. The Association has always been solvent although in the early days appeals were made to the membership to contribute above their dues to meet the costs of publishing the *Chronicle*. The first issues were financed by Mr. Albert Wells, charter member, and founder of Old Sturbridge Village, who on March 10, 1953, passed away at the age of 80.

Mr. Hill was succeeded in the Presidency by Dr. Fred C. Sabin at the June 7-8-9, 1957, meeting held at the Corning Glass Center, Corning, New York and was re-elected at the Doylestown, Pennsylvania, meeting in June, 1958.

While Stephen Wolcott, William B. Sprague and John Davis Hatch have been mentioned as Editors of the *Chronicle* and for their splendid work both as writers and in bringing out the publication, others succeeded them and maintained the traditions first established. Mr. Hatch relinquished his duties as Editor in September, 1949, and Mrs. Josephine H. Peirce took over the task in addition to her duties as Secretary and Treasurer, a position which she had held since 1943. As Editor, she served until 1953 when Minor Wine Thomas and William D. Geiger, of Colonial Williamsburg, undertook the Editorship. When Mr. Thomas went to the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan, as Chief Curator, Mr. Geiger assumed the Editorship in which position he was joined by Raymond R. Townsend, of Colonial Williamsburg. Both are ably carrying on the high standards set by their predecessors and the present Anniversary issue of the *Chronicle* climaxes 25 years of continuous publication, almost without parallel among publications dependent almost completely upon volunteer services.

At the Doylestown meeting in June, 1958, the Board presented Mrs. Peirce with a silver tray, a product of the Colonial Williamsburg Silversmith Shop, and wrought by William DeMatteo, Master Silversmith, in recognition of her years of service to the Association, still represented by her positions of Treasurer and member of the Board.

The history of any successful organization is the story of the services and accomplishments of its devoted members. Many have already been mentioned but many others have also done their part in furthering the aims of the Association.

George M. Simmons, now confined to his home in  
(Continued on Page 40)

# Early American Industries LEADERS OF THE E.A.I.A.

Page 29

From its organization in 1933, the *Early American Industries Association* has been blessed with a group of outstanding men who have served in the office of President of our Association. In the twenty five years of existence of the Association, we have had only eight different men who have served in the highest office that the membership can bestow on any one person. This has been a fortunate situation, although these men may on occasion have given thought to the important task assigned them, because it has provided in many cases a continuity of office over a period of years which is essential in a volunteer organization. Members of long standing will be familiar with the names of the men which will appear in this article, but newer members may not realize who were the distinguished leaders and their outstanding services in the first years of our organization. The office of President in any organization is of great importance, but in our Association the men who have held this office have made an outstanding contribution to the success and growth of the *Early American Industries Association*. So on this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization, the one thousand members of the Association salute them and say, "Well done."



William Buell Sprague

## WILLIAM BUELL SPRAGUE

August 31, 1933 to August 26, 1938

William Buell Sprague was elected the first President of the *Early American Industries Association* at the founder's meeting at Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1933. Mr. Sprague was born October 26, 1885, at Flushing, Long Island. He spent much of his life in Flushing until 1933 when he moved to New York City and also maintained a summer residence in Litchfield, Connecticut. He graduated in 1906 from Yale University, where he was an AKE and President of the Glee Club in his senior year. He also graduated from Columbia Law School in 1909.

Mr. Sprague was a member of the Bar Association of New York City, The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Litchfield, Connecticut Historical Society; and was an avid stamp collector. His clubs were the Down Town Association and Yale Club of New York City, and he was founder and President of the former Pomonock Golf Club on Long Island.

In business he was associated with the law firm of Sprague, Seymour, and Sprague of New York, New York. Mr. Sprague has been referred to as "The Association" because of his great contribution to the organization in its first years. In addition to being the first President, Mr. Sprague became the Assistant Editor of the *Chronicle* in March, 1934, and on the death of the first Editor, Mr. Stephen C. Wolcott in June, 1934, he became the second Editor of this publication. He held this post until his death on August 22, 1942. In 1938, the first local chapter of E.A.I.A. was founded in New Jersey and was appropriately entitled "Sprague Chapter Number 1." Mr. Sprague was not only the second Editor of the *Chronicle* but its major contributor as well. He made this publication an outstanding source of information on our early handcraft industries and invaluable to libraries, museums, and students. In addition to being a true student of *Early American Industries*, he was an avid collector and his outstanding collection was presented to the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

Mrs. Sprague resides in Litchfield, Connecticut, and is an Honorary Member of our Association. She is an enthusiastic reader of the *Chronicle* and donates the issues to the Reading Table of the Litchfield Library.

## LEWIS NOBLE WIGGINS

August 26, 1938 to November 3, 1941

Lewis Noble Wiggins was the second President of the Association. He was elected at the annual meeting at Northampton, Massachusetts in 1938. Mr. Wiggins was born on May 22, 1876, at Springfield, Illinois. His early years were spent in Springfield and he was educated in the Springfield Public Schools, Michigan Military Academy, Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and graduated from Princeton University, Princeton New Jersey in the class of 1898.

Mr. Wiggins entered the hotel business at an early



## The Chronicle



*Lewis Noble Wiggins*

age, was associated with dairy farming, was a real estate agent, was President of the Illinois Ice Cream Company, was a Hotel Manager in Seneca and Rochester, New York, was President of Wiggins Hotels Company, operating some five hotels in three states, was owner and developer of Wiggins' Old Tavern and Country Store and the lessee of the Hotel Northampton in Northampton, Massachusetts from 1927 to 1945. After various other projects he returned to Northampton from 1948 to 1949. Mr. Wiggins was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, New York and from 1949 to 1953 was the Director of the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. Mr. Wiggins, still an active member of E.A.I.A., resides with Mrs. Wiggins at 500 North Cherokee Avenue, Los Angeles, California and is engaged in an advisory capacity to the California Beaches and Parks Commission which is engaged in the restoration of a section of early Los Angeles. Mr. Wiggins is a Charter Member of the Association and helped pioneer it with other early members. He was one of the 16 in attendance at Northampton in 1933 and he continually offered the facilities of his fine establishment at Northampton to the Association for their early meetings. He was also elected a Vice-President of the Association from 1949 to 1951 and in 1958 was elected the first President Emeritus of the *Early American Industries Association*. Mr. Wiggins, the oldest member of E.A.I.A., has long been a most enthusiastic supporter of the introduction of young people into the organization and when he attended our meetings was a source of great inspiration to such people. Much of his fine collection re-

mains at the Old Tavern and the Country Store at the Hotel Northampton in Northampton, Massachusetts.

### ALEXANDER J. WALL

November 4, 1941 to September 18, 1942

Alexander J. Wall was the third President of the Early American Industries Association and was elected at the meeting of the membership at Northampton, Massachusetts in 1941. Mr. Wall was born in New York City, New York on October 25, 1884. He was educated in the local public school system and joined the Staff of the New York Historical Society in 1898 at the age of fourteen. In 1921 he was appointed Librarian and Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Society and later to the Board of Trustees. In 1937 Mr. Wall became the



*Alexander J. Wall*

Director of the New York Historical Society. When funds from the Thompson Estate became available to the Society, the Trustees decided on enlarging the Society's Building to its present proportions. Mr. Wall was to take an active part in drawing the plans and supervising the construction. He visited some fifty galleries abroad in 1937 studying lighting methods and effects in England, Holland, France and his observations resulted in bringing to the Society the lighting system now in use and considered to be one of the best in the country. The experience Mr. Wall gained in developing this system was incorporated in an article, "In Search of Light" which has been widely read by Museum Architects with profit. As a result of Mr. Wall's outstanding services in develop-

## Early American Industries

Page 31

ing the new building, the Board of Trustees in 1939, presented to him a silver bowl on which was inscribed, "In appreciation of his skill, knowledge, and unremitting efforts in planning and carrying through the transition from the old building to the new."

Mr. Wall prepared and edited, *A Catalogue of the Gallery of Art of the Society*, in 1915, he edited for many years, *The John Watts de Peyster Publication Fund Series* and the volumes in the *John Divine Jones Fund Series*. In April 1917, he started the *Quarterly Bulletin* as a publication for historical monographs, source material, and notes. He continued as its Editor until 1936, contributing to it more than 30 articles of permanent value resulting from his careful researches. In 1942 Mr. Wall presented a series of lectures to graduate students and professional librarians under the auspices of Columbia University. Mr. Wall was a contributor to other publications and submitted articles on occasion to the *Chronicle*.

Mr. Wall was instrumental in the development of the idea of holding two annual meetings a year. Mr. Wall died in New York City in 1944.

### WARREN C. LANE

September 19, 1942 to May 11, 1946

Warren C. Lane was the fourth President of the *Early American Industries Association* and was elected to that office at the annual meeting held at Worcester, Massachusetts in 1942. Mr. Lane was born on May 26,



Warren C. Lane

1891, at West Liberty, Kentucky. He received his B.C.S. at Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1913. Mr. Lane was an Instructor in Accounting at Villanova College at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1913 to 1914, he was associated with Norristown High School in Norristown, Pennsylvania from 1914 to 1917, he was the Director of the Department of Business Administration of Bryant College, Providence, Rhode Island, from 1917 to 1927. He has been President of Becker Junior College in Worcester, Massachusetts, since 1927. He is also President of the Leicester Savings Bank, a Director of the Fairbanks Company of New York City, and the United Wire and Supply Company of Providence, Rhode Island. He is a member, and director, and past President of the Worcester Better Business Bureau and is also a member of the following organizations; American Institute of Accountants, Worcester Historical Society, American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, Foreign Policy Association, and the Association for the Preservation of New Eng'and Antiquities. Mr. Lane is the author of *A Treatise on Depreciation* published in 1921. Mr. Lane resides at 101 Pleasant Street in Leicester, Massachusetts, and is still a member of the *Early American Industries Association*. In addition to serving as President of E.A.I.A. for four years, Mr. Lane was also a Director of the organization. Mr. Lane was an avid collector of bottles and flasks and a contributor to the *Chronicle* on this subject. A great contribution to the association was Mr. Lane's able leadership during the critical war years when it would have been possible for such an organization to wither on the vine. That the Association remained alive during this period and continued to grow is a lasting tribute to his ability.

### JOHN DAVIS HATCH, JUNIOR

May 11, 1946 to May 10, 1947

John Davis Hatch, Junior, was the fifth President of the *Early American Industries Association* and was elected to Office at the Annual Meeting at New York, New York, in 1946. Mr. Hatch was born at Oakland, California on June 14, 1907. He was educated at the University of California at Berkeley, California, Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, and Yale University of New Haven, Connecticut. Mr. Hatch served as a Landscape Architect in Santa Barbara, California, and in Seattle, Washington in 1925 and 1928. He was the Executive Secretary and later Director of the Seattle Art Museum in Seattle Washington from 1928 to 1931. Mr. Hatch was a Vice-President of Western Association of Art Museums from 1930 to 1931, and from 1932 to 1935 he surveyed facilities and materials for far eastern study in the United States and Canada. He worked on traveling exhibits for the Carnegie Corporation from 1935 to 1937, and was Director of United States Art Projects in New England in 1933 and 1934. In 1935 Mr. Hatch was the Assistant Director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. He pioneered the exhibit, the *Negro Artist comes of Age* in 1935 and was an advisor of the Southern Negro Colleges Co-operative Exhibits Group from 1936 to 1941. He is also the founder of the American Artists Depository in 1938. From 1940 to 1948, Mr. Hatch was Director of the



John Davis Hatch Jr.

Albany Institute of History and Art, and visiting professor at the Universities of California and Oregon in 1948 and 1949. He is currently the Director of the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences and resides in Norfolk, Virginia, at 700 Raleigh Avenue. Mr. Hatch has been the co-compiler of several works including: *Historic Church Silver in the Southern Diocese of Virginia*, *Historic Survey of Painting in Canada* and has been the Editor of the *Albany County Historical Association Record*.

Mr. Hatch, who is still a member of the Association served the *Early American Industries Association* first as Secretary-Treasurer in 1940, then as an outstanding Editor of the *Chronicle* from December 1942 to April 1949, the second longest term of any Editor. As President of the Association the valuable experience Mr. Hatch had received during his professional career was to be a real asset to the Association. This real ability is nowhere more in evidence than in the volumes of the *Chronicle* that he edited.

#### EDWARD DURELL

May 10, 1947 to June 25, 1955

Edward Durell was the sixth President of the *Early American Industries Association* and was elected at the annual meeting at Doylestown, Pennsylvania in 1947. Mr. Durell was born at Harriman, Tennessee, on December 11, 1894, and was educated at University School in Cleveland, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1913. He attended Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey and graduated in 1917. Mr. Durell served with American forces in World War I in 1917 and 1918 and on his return to the United States joined the Union Fork and Hoe Company, one of the major manufacturers of steel goods (hand farm and garden tools and shovels). In 1934 Mr. Durell became President of the Union Fork and Hoe Company of Columbus, Ohio a position which he holds at the present time. He is also a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Manufacturers Association and a member of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. As a result of Mr. Durell's interest in the history and collection of early implements and tools used in this country, particularly tools and implements used in early



Edward Durell

homes and on farms, the Union Fork and Hoe Company has provided a combination office-museum, consisting of a pioneer farm kitchen, three other rooms and three large sheds, for the housing of his collection. Any person who has had the opportunity of seeing these collections can attest to their excellence.

Mr. Durell held the office of President of the *Early American Industries Association* longer than any other President, for a period of nine years. He joined the Association in 1935, only two years after its organization and has remained in the forefront of the organization since that time. In addition to Mr. Lewis Noble Wiggins, President Emeritus of the Association, perhaps no other officer or member of the Association has made a similar contribution to the organization. It was Edward Durell who kept the organization alive after World War II, interrupting constantly a busy business schedule to travel from his home in Columbus or in Virginia to every meeting of the Association. His drive and energy so well known to all members of the Association and his insistence on high standards are known to many of our members. Those persons who have not had an opportunity to meet or serve with him cannot visualize the outstanding contribution that Edward Durell has made to this organization. He has been a resourceful leader of E.A.I.A. in all its aspects and he will be remembered in the same light as the Spragues', Wolcotts', Wiggins', Peirces' and Simmons' of the E.A.I.A.

## Early American Industries

Page 33

### ROBERT G. HILL

June 25, 1955 to June 8, 1957

Robert G. Hill was the seventh President of the *Early American Industries Association* and was elected to that Office on June 25, 1955, at the annual meeting at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Hill was born on September 9, 1903, at Middleton, New York. He graduated from Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, in 1927, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Bob Hill from his school days has had a high interest in sports being the Captain of his high school football team and an All-American Lacrosse player at Syracuse. Today, Mr. Hill is president of the R. G. Hill Agency Incorporated, General Insurance, in Pough-



Robert G. Hill

keepsie, New York, and resides at Catherine at Mill in that city with his wife. Mr. Hill is also President of the Dutchess County Local Agents' Association, President of the County Life Underwriters Association, Secretary of his local Community Chest, Director of the Dutchess County Historical Association, Chairman of the restoration of Glebe House, a joint project of the Junior League and the Dutchess County Historical Society. In addition, Mr. Hill is active in the following clubs; the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club, Dutchess Golf and Country Club, the Casparkill Game Club, and the Mohawk Hunt Club. His hobbies are skiing, golf, trout fishing, restoring paintings, and collecting antiques. He has been a contributor to the *Chronicle*, writing an article in Volume VIII, Number 3, July, 1955, entitled, *Real Primitive*.

One of Mr. Hill's major contributions to the Association was in the selection and assistance that he rendered in preparing for a series of three outstanding annual meetings that were held during his term of office. The outstanding meetings were at Smith's Clove, Monroe, New York, our return after many years to Northampton, Massachusetts, and the meeting at the Corning Glass Center at Corning, New York.

### FRED C. SABIN

June 8, 1957

Dr. Fred C. Sabin is the eighth and present President of the *Early American Industries Association*. He was elected at the annual meeting at Corning, New York, in June, 1957. Dr. Sabin was born on October 12, 1893,



Fred C. Sabin

at East Syracuse, New York, and was educated at East Syracuse High School and the University of Maryland Medical School at College Park, Maryland, where he received his MD in 1921. Professionally, Dr. Sabin is a doctor in Little Falls, New York, where he resides with Mrs. Sabin at 23 North Ann Street in that City. He is a member of the staff of Little Falls Hospital, a member of the Herkimer County Medical Society, a member of the Utica Academy of Medicine, a member of the Medical Society of the State of New York, a member of the American Medical Association, a member of the American Legion and the Society of the 40 et 8.

Dr. Sabin's deep interest in the history of the United States has resulted in his association with a number of

(Continued on Page 41)



# The Chronicle

## OFFICERS OF E. A. I. A.

On the 23rd day of March, 1942, a meeting of the incorporators of the *Early American Industries Association* was held at the office of Sprague, Seymour and Sprague, 43 Cedar Street, Borough of Manhattan, New York, N. Y.

Mr. William B. Sprague was elected chairman of the meeting and Mr. William J. Wissbach secretary thereof.

The Chairman announced that the certificate of incorporation of this corporation was filed in the office of the Secretary of State of New York on the 16th day of March, 1942, and the Secretary was directed to prefix a copy thereof to the minutes.

The Secretary presented a proposed code of by-laws, and the same were, by motion duly made, seconded and carried, adopted, and the Secretary was directed to identify the same with his signature and to prefix them to these minutes.

From this date of incorporation, Directors of our Association were and have been appointed and Vice-Presidents elected. At the fall meeting of this year held at Worcester, Mass., Sept. 18-19, Mr. John D. Hatch, Jr., recommended that the Directors of the Association be divided into terms of three, two, and one years to permit a rotation and an election each year of ten of the Directors. This was adopted. At the spring meeting held at Cooperstown, July 14-15, 1948, President Edward Durell suggested that the office of Vice-President be increased from one to three. This was duly adopted.

### VICE PRESIDENTS

- Wallace K. Brown, Montclair, New Jersey, 1942 to 1948; first Vice-President of the EAIA, instrumental in forming Sprague Chapter Number One of New Jersey and was its first Chairman. Deceased.
- Loring McMillen, Director of the Staten Island Historical Society, Richmondtown, Staten Island, New York, 1948, until the present.
- Francis D. Brinton, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1948 to 1949. Deceased.
- Mrs. John H. Ballantine, Southbury, Connecticut, 1948 to 1949. The only woman to be elected to the Vice-Presidency of the EAIA.
- Lewis N. Wiggins, Los Angeles, California, 1949 to 1951.
- Major A. Erland Goyette, Peterborough, New Hampshire, 1949 to 1950; founder of the Goyette Museum.
- George M. Simmons, Farmingdale, Long Island, New York, 1951 to 1955, Honorary Vice-President 1955 to present. Outstanding collector whose collections have been presented to The Staten Island Historical Society.
- James A. Keillor, White Plains, New York, 1953 to 1955.
- Lawrence S. Cooke, Needham, Mass., 1955 until the present.
- Minor Wine Thomas, Jr., Chief Curator of The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, 1956 until the present.

### SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

- STEPHEN C. WOLCOTT, (deceased)  
*Secretary 1933 to 1934*  
Nutall, Virginia
- EARLE T. GOODNOW, (deceased)  
*Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer 1933 to 1936*  
West Cummington, Massachusetts
- BURTON A. KOLLMER  
*Secretary and Treasurer 1936 to 1942*  
Curator, Staten Island Historical Society, N. Y.
- JOHN DAVIS HATCH JR.  
*Secretary-Treasurer 1940 to 1942*  
Director of Norfolk Museum of Art and Science  
Norfolk, Virginia
- GEORGE M. SIMMONS  
*Treasurer 1942 to 1943*  
Richmondville, New York
- CHARLES RUFUS HARTE, (deceased)  
*Secretary 1942*  
New Haven, Connecticut
- JOSEPHINE H. PEIRCE  
*Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Treasurer 1942 to present*  
Manager Worcester Better Business Bureau  
Worcester, Massachusetts
- IRMA P. ANDERSON, (deceased)  
*Corresponding Secretary 1948 to 1951*  
Ohio State Museum  
Columbus, Ohio
- JANET R. MACFARLANE  
*Recording and Correspondence Secretary and Secretary 1948 to 1956*  
Director of the Albany Institute  
Albany, New York
- DOROTHY C. BARCK  
*Secretary 1956 to 1958*  
New York State Historical Association  
and Farmer's Museum  
Cooperstown, New York
- PER ERNEST GULDBECK  
*Present Secretary*  
Associate Researcher New York State Historical Association and Farmer's Museum  
Cooperstown, New York

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

- S. EDSON GAGE, (deceased)  
*Chairman Admissions Committee 1933 to 1936*  
Bantam, Connecticut
- ALBERT E. LOWNES  
*Chairman of Recruiting Committee 1933 to 1936*  
Providence, Rhode Island
- HOWARD G. HUBBARD  
*Chairman of Recruiting Committee 1936 to 1938*  
South Hadley, Massachusetts
- ELEANOR HUDSON WELCH, (deceased)  
*Chairman of Recruiting Committee 1938 to 1940*  
Winchester, Massachusetts  
(Continued on Page 46)



# Early American Industries

Page 35

## EDITORS OF THE CHRONICLE

Our founders in establishing the organization's official publication, the *Chronicle*, did so for the purpose stated in the first issue: "In presenting this, the first issue of our *Chronicle* to the members of our Association, and to any and all who are interested in our purpose, we hope we have started a medium wherein each one will find some item of interest, news or information. . . .

It is hoped this effort will stimulate all of our members, or outsiders, to contribute some article or news or suggestions." In the second issue the Editors stated: "With this issue we are offering to our members such a *Chronicle* as we had in mind when the thought of one was first conceived. . . . After all, it should be remembered that we are not the arbiters of its make-up and success, but you, as its readers. We wish to give you what you want. Our own thought is to make it a source of little known information and facts, an authority, if you will, on the industries of the early American workers of all trades, arts, and crafts." No better words could express the purpose of our publication than those laid down by our founders.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to read through the early issue of the *Chronicle*, realize that we have in our possession a remarkable source of information on our country's early industries. This information is recorded where the ravages of time will not be able to reach or destroy it. Those who have been Editor of *The Chronicle* have always kept in mind the ideals of our founders and in this our twenty-fifth year, we hope that our efforts are meeting with your approval! It is with pride we list the Editors of the *Chronicle*.

### Stephen C. Wolcott 1933 to 1934

Our first Editor was Mr. Stephen C. Wolcott, of Nutall, Virginia. It was largely through Mr. Wolcott that our *Chronicle* achieved a standard that has lasted through the years. Mr. Wolcott was not only a collector of tools, but also a collector of books, magazines, papers, pictures, prints of any and all trades before 1860. No better testimony of his enthusiasm is recorded than the meetings of Mr. Wolcott and Mr. Wiggins in Wiggins' Old Tavern. A memorial to Mr. Wolcott is his fine collection of tools on display and in use at Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mr. Wolcott served as our Editor from the first issue, on November 20, 1933, through May, 1934. He made many contributions to our publication until his untimely death on June 15, 1954. His was a great loss to our organization.

### Mr. William B. Sprague. 1934 to 1942

Mr. Sprague, our first President, was our second Editor. He assisted Mr. Wolcott in the Editorship from March 1934 until Mr. Wolcott's death at which time he assumed the Editorship. Until his death on August 22, 1942 Mr. Sprague continued to carry on the fine standards of this publication and contributed many articles, one of which we have reprinted in this issue. This article is a testimony to his remarkable knowledge of early American life and industries. His fine collection of tools now rests in The Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown, New York.

### John Davis Hatch, Jr. 1942 to 1949

Mr. Hatch was our third Editor. Upon the death of Mr. Sprague, Mr. Hatch, who then was Secretary and Treasurer, assumed the Editorship of the *Chronicle*. He continued in this capacity until he moved to Oregon and resigned this post in 1949. He edited the *Chronicle* from October 1942 to April 1949.

### Mrs. Josephine H. Peirce. 1949 to 1952

Mrs. Peirce was our fourth Editor. She was called upon by the President, Edward Durell, in 1949 to take the Editorship, which she willingly assumed along with her task as Treasurer. Mrs. Peirce has proved herself a loyal and enthusiastic worker and officer of E.A.I.A. Because of members like Mrs. Peirce, our organization has reached its twenty-fifth birthday. At the Doylestown Meeting this year she was presented with a silver tray in recognition of her outstanding services.

Mrs. Peirce served from Sept. 1949 through October 1952.

### Minor Wine Thomas Jr. and

### William D. Geiger. 1952 to 1956

Mr. Thomas was our fifth Editor, and a former Director of Craft Shops of Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia. He is now Chief Curator of The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, in Dearborn, Michigan. Mr. Thomas, assisted by Mr. Geiger, assumed the Editorship at the resignation of Mrs. Peirce in 1952 and continued until Mr. Thomas resigned from Colonial Williamsburg in 1956. Mr. Thomas served from January 1953 until February 1956.

William D. Geiger and Raymond R. Townsend 1956—

Mr. Geiger, Director of Craft Shops of Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia, assumed the Editorship on the resignation of Mr. Thomas and edited the *Chronicle* for one issue, in May 1956. He was joined by Mr. Townsend, of the Staff of Colonial Williamsburg, in September of 1956. The *Chronicle* is now edited in Williamsburg and printed on the press of *The Virginia Gazette*, founded in 1736.

## DIRECTORS 1942-1958

- Adams, Dr. Charles C., Albany, N. Y.
- Allen, John W., Carbondale, Ill.
- \*Anderson, Mrs. Irma P., Columbus, Ohio
- Attwill, J. Sanger, Lynn, Mass.
- \*Ayers, Charles E., Worcester, Mass.
- Bacon, J. Earle, Providence, R. I.
- Bailey, Mrs. Theodore L., Harriman, N. Y.
- Ball, George A., Muncie, Ind.
- Ballantine, Mrs. John H., Green's Farms, Conn.
- Batchelder, Dr. Philip, Rumford, R. I.
- Brainard, Newton C., Hartford, Conn.
- Brasch, F. E., Washington, D. C.
- Brendel, Louis H., Bridgeport, Conn.
- \*Brinton, Francis D., West Chester, Pa.
- \*Brown, Wallace K., Montclair, N. J.
- Byard, John Kenneth, Norwalk, Conn.
- Cooke, Lawrence S., Needham, Mass.
- Connor, John M., Plainfield, N. J.
- Cooper, Miner J., Windsor, N. Y.

(Continued on Page 46)

## The Chronicle

### Where We Have Been and Who We Are

This summary is intended to present the story of the annual meetings of the *Early American Industries Association* in outline and graphic form, to give an indication of the growth in numbers of the Association and its spread in terms of geographical location, and finally to give the membership a clear understanding of the scope of our membership in terms of the various Educational Institutions, Libraries, Historical Societies, etc. that make up in part the organization's membership. See maps on inside cover.

Date	Place	President	Attendance	Highlights
1933, August 31	Northampton, Massachusetts		16	Formation of E.A.I.A.
1934, September 1	Northampton, Massachusetts	Sprague	40	First Annual Meeting, Meeting with Rushlight Club, Talk by Dr. Rushford.
1935, September 7	Salem, Massachusetts	Sprague		Visited Essex Institute, Peabody Museum, and Pioneer Village — Various Craft Demonstrations.
1936, August 29	Northampton, Massachusetts	Sprague		First WHATSITS Session, Talks by Messrs. Orton, Eaton, Hubbard, Sprague, and Stow.
1937, September 17	Northampton, Massachusetts	Sprague	50	Talks by Messrs. Hubbard, Goodnow, Eaton, Harte, and the Rev. Luther.
1938, August 26	Northampton, Massachusetts	Wiggins		Slide lecture on Early tools and implements, illustrated talk by Loring McMillen.
1939, May 20	New York, New York	Wiggins	80	Formation of Sprague Chapter No. 1 of New Jersey. Talk by Mr. Wall. Visit to the New York Historical Society Museum.
1939, October 14	Albany, New York	Wiggins		Visit to Albany Institute of History and Art, and the State Museum. Demonstration of the Pill Box Industry of Knox, New York by Miss Brower and Mr. Quay and Rope Making by Mr. George Simmons.
1940, November 9	Northampton, Massachusetts	Wiggins	100	Demonstration by Mr. Simmons. Talks by Mr. Armstrong and Miss Gaines.
1941, November 3.	Northampton, Massachusetts	Wall	150	Auction held for first time. Mr. Wiggins presented with a silver beaker as a tribute from the members of the "Pick and Shovel Club".
1942, May 23	New York, New York	Wall		Talks by Charles Courtney, Alexander J. Wall, and Marshall Davidson.
1942, September 18 and 19	Worcester, Massachusetts	Wall	83	Visit to Worcester Museum, J. W. Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester Historical Society, American Antiquarian Society, and Quinabug Village. Talks by Mary Earle Gould, Z. W. Coombs, Marion W. Emerson, Warren C. Lane, and Louisa Dresser.
1943, June 26	Albany, New York	Lane		Joint Meeting with Albany County Historical Association at the Albany Institute of History and Art. Visited Albany Institute, and the State Museum. Showing of old movies, <i>The Great Train Robbery</i> and the <i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> with musical accompaniments by Walter Simon the first composer of musical scores for motion pictures. Talks by Laurence Fenner, John Hatch, Mr. Cogswell, and Basil Kievit.

# Early American Industries

Page 37

Date	Place	President	Attendance	Highlights
1945, October 19 and 20	Northampton, Massachusetts	Lane	100	Talks by Carl Drepperd, Auction of members duplicates by George Simmons. Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins given honorary life membership.
1946, May 10 and 11	New York, New York	Hatch		Visited New York Historical Society, Talks by Dorothy Barck, Donald Shelley, and Janet MacFarlane.
1946, October 4 and 5	Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts	Hatch		Visit Old Sturbridge Village and the Wells Historical Museum.
1947, May 9 and 10	Doylestown, Pennsylvania	Hatch		Visited Bucks County Historical Society, Font Hill. Talks by Horace M. Mann, and Dr. Sigmund Epstein.
1947, October 17 and 18	Richmond, Staten Island, New York	Durell		Visit to Staten Island Historical Society, Talks by Charles C. Stoddard, Raymond C. Fingado, Loring McMillen, and Alice Winchester.
1948, July 14 and 15	Cooperstown, New York	Durell	42	Joint Meeting with New York Historical Association Seminar on American Culture. E.A.I.A. sponsored sessions on Early Arts and Crafts with Mr. Lewis Wiggins as chairman. Visit Farmers Museum, Fenimore House, Baseball Hall of Fame, Talks by Frank Doble, Malcolm Watkins, Bertram Little, Mary Moore, Charles Harte, Dr. Sigmund Epstein, George Watson, and Loring McMillen.
1949, June 24 and 25	Peterborough, New Hampshire	Durell		Visit to Major Erland A. Goyette Museum, Bulfinch Church, and the McDowell Artist Colony.
1949, November 4 and 5	Worcester, Massachusetts	Durell	45	Visited Worcester Art Museum, American Antiquarian Society, J. W. Higgins Armory, the Museum of the Worcester Historical Society, and Mary Earle Gould's Museum. Talks by George Simmons, Mary Earle Gould, Loring McMillen, John Callan, Dr. Sigmund Epstein.
1950, June 16 and 17	Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts	Durell	70	Visit Old Sturbridge Village, Exhibit of Costumes from Worcester Historical Society, Talks by Carl Drepperd, and Dirk Jan Struik.
1950, October 27 and 28	Cooperstown, New York	Durell		Visited the Farmer's Museum and Fenimore House. Talks by Jared Van Wagenen, Jr.
1951, June 15 and 16	Museum Village of Smith's Clove, Monroe, New York	Durell	70	Visited Mr. Smith's Museum. Talks by Dr. Sigmund Epstein, Charles Harte, Rev. A. Elwood Corning, Charles Philhower, and Roy Vail.
1951, November 2, 3, and 4	Washington, D. C.	Durell	75	Visited Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution, American Index of Design, and Mount Vernon. Films shown by Mr. and Mrs. Bailey.
1952, May 9, 10, and 11	Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan	Durell	60	Visited the Museum and Greenfield Village. Talk by H. S. Ablewhite, Visited the Ford Motor Company.

## The Chronicle

	Place	President	Attendance	Highlights
1952, October 17 and 19	Salem, Massachusetts	Durell	150	First joint Meeting of E.A.I.A. and Rushlight Club. Visited Essex Institute, Saugus Restoration and Peabody Museum. Talks by Charles Montgomery, Viewed the Collection of Lighting Devices assembled by Dr. Edward Rushford at the invitation of Mrs. Rushford.
1953, June 26, 27, and 28	Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont	Durell	225	Visited the Shelburne Museum and the Estate of Mrs. J. Watson Webb. Auction of duplicates by George Simmons, Talks by Frank Wildung on "The Making of the Wooden Plane".
1953, October 30, 31, November 1	Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia	Durell	48	Visit to the working Craft Shops of Colonial Williamsburg, the Exhibition Buildings, the Wolcott Tool Collection, Mariner's Museum, and Yorktown Battlefield.
1954, June 25, 26, and 27	Plymouth, Massachusetts	Durell	150	Visited the exhibits of Plimoth Plantation and various Museums and historic houses in Plymouth. Trip on the Edaville R. R. in Carver, the oldest narrow gauge R. R. in the U. S., Tour of the Plymouth Cordage Company; Movie, "The Plymouth Story" and "The Lifeline".
1954, October 1, 2, and 3	Cooperstown, New York	Durell	100	Visited the Farmer's Museum and Fenimore House, demonstration of muzzle loading rifles, talk by Richard Gipson.
1955, June 25, 26 and 27	Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts	Durell	125	Visited Sturbridge Village and special craft demonstrations set up by the museum staff. A successful auction was held.
1955, October 14, 15, and 16	Old Museum Village of Smith's Clove, Monroe, New York	Durell	80	Visited the Museum, Goshen Inn, early Hudson Valley Iron Furnace, and the U. S. Military Academy Museum — Nearly flooded out by a major storm.
1956, June 22, 23, and 24	Northampton, Massachusetts	Hill	110	Revisited the scenes of the founding of E.A. I.A. and the collections originally assembled by Mr. Wiggins, visited Deerfield Mass.
1956, October 12 to 14	Columbus, Ohio	Hill	60	Visited Ohio State Museum, Edward Durell Museum of Union Fork and Hoe Company, Ross County Historical Museum, and Adena. Program of Folk Music.
1957, June 7 to 9	Corning, New York	Hill	120	Visited the Corning Glass Center, the Steuben Glass Factory, New York State Wineries, and Old Irelandville.
1957, October 4 to 6	Winston Salem, North Carolina	Sabin	45	Visited Old Salem Restoration, Tobacco Auction, Cigarette Factories, and other points of interest in this Moravian Area. Program of Moravian Music.
1958, June 27 to 29	Doylestown, Pennsylvania	Sabin	120	Visited the Bucks County Museum, Font Hill, Pennsbury Manor, Washington's Crossing Park, and the Thompson Neely House and Mill. Award of Silver Tray to Mrs. Josephine Peirce.
1958, October 17 to 19	Dearborn, Michigan	Sabin		TWENTY - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.



## Early American Industries

Page 39

At the present time the *Chronicle* finds its way to some 35 Museums, 27 Libraries, 30 Historical Societies, 17 Colleges or Universities, 4 Foundations, 5 Research Organizations, and some 12 other Educational Institutions. For those in our organization who are interested in this membership the following lists are attached.

### EAIA — MEMBERSHIP LISTS MUSEUMS

Bennington Historical Museum & Art Gallery, Bennington, Vt.  
Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Cayuga Museum of History & Art, Cayuga, N. H.  
Center Street Museum, Genesee, N. Y.  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio  
Colonial Williamsburg Inc., Williamsburg, Va.  
Corning Glass Center, Corning, N. Y.  
Delaware State Museum, Dover, Delaware  
Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit, Mich.  
Deutsches Museum, Munchen, Germany  
Everhart Museum, Scranton, Pa.  
Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown, N. Y.  
Fort Delaware, Inc., Narrowsburg, N. Y.  
Fort Ticonderoga Museum, Ticonderoga, N. Y.  
Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Mich.  
Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich.  
Henry Grout Historical Museum, Waterloo, Iowa  
Kern County Museum, Bakersfield, California  
Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City  
Newark Museum Association, Newark, N. J.  
Oakland Public Museum, Oakland, Calif.  
Old Museum Village of Smith's Clove, Monroe, N. Y.  
Old Salem, Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Old Slater Museum, Pawtucket, R. I.  
Old Stone Museum, Schoharie, N. Y.  
Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass.  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Schenectady Museum Association, Schenectady, N. Y.  
Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vt.  
Suffolk Museum, Stony Brook, N. Y.  
West Point Museum, West Point, N. Y.  
Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware  
Woodford Mansion, Philadelphia, Pa.

### LIBRARIES

Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.  
Bridgeport Public Library, Bridgeport, Conn.  
Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
City Library Association, Springfield, Mass.  
Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio  
Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.  
Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Mich.  
Hamilton Smith Library, Durham, N. H.  
Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke, Mass.  
Howard Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans, La.  
Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.  
Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Ind.  
John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.

Louisiana State Library, Baton Rouge, La.  
Montclair Public Library, Montclair, N. J.  
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, N. H.  
New York Public Library, New York City  
New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.  
Rochester Public Library, Rochester, N. Y.  
St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.  
Shelburne Library, Shelburne, Vt.  
State of New Jersey Library, Trenton, N. J.  
Syracuse Public Library, Syracuse, N. Y.  
Toledo Public Library, Toledo, Ohio  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.  
Worcester Public Library, Worcester, Mass.  
The Commonwealth National Library, Canberra, Capitol Territory, Australia

### SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

Addison Gallery, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.  
Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, New York City  
Baker Library, Harvard School of Business Administration, Cambridge, Mass.  
Colgate University Library, Hamilton, N. Y.  
Hayden Library, Massachusetts Institute Of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.  
Hickory Ridge School, Putney, Vt.  
Library, School of Commerce, New York University, New York City  
Lincoln University, Journalism Library, Jefferson City, Mo.  
Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Princeton University Library, Princeton, N. J.  
Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick, N. J.  
Syracuse University Library, Syracuse 10, N. Y.  
University of Delaware Library, Newark, Del.  
University of Kentucky Library, Lexington, Ky.  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.  
University of Rhode Island, University Library, Kingston, R. I.  
University of Washington Library, Seattle, Washington

### FOUNDATIONS

Demarest Memorial Foundation, Inc., Hackensack, N. J.  
Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Inc. Wilmington, Del.  
Shaker Museum Foundation, Inc., Old Chatham, N. Y.  
The Wilkie Foundation, Des Plains, Ill.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa.  
Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.  
Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.  
Dallas Historical Society, Dallas, Texas  
East Hampton Historical Society, East Hampton, N. Y.  
Historical Society of Connecticut, Hartford, Conn.  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas  
Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.  
Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.  
Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, Mich.  
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minn.  
Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.  
Nantucket Historical Society, Nantucket, Mass.



## The Chronicle

New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Conn.  
 New York Historical Society, New York City  
 New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N. Y.  
 Pocumtuck Valley Historical Association, Deerfield, Mass.  
 Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.  
 Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe, Ohio  
 Schoharie County Historical Society, Schoharie, N. Y.  
 State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.  
 Staten Island Historical Society, Richmondtown, Staten Island, N. Y.  
 Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead, Long Island, N. Y.  
 Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vt.  
 Westchester County Historical Society, White Plains, N. Y.  
 Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio  
 Worcester Historical Society, Worcester, Mass.

### MISCELLANEOUS

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.  
 Antiquarian Society of California, Alhambra, Calif.  
 Concord Antiquarian Society, Concord, Mass.  
 Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.  
 Historical & Philosophical Society of Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association, Mt. Vernon, Va.  
 National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.  
 New York Division Of Archives & History, Albany, N.Y.  
 Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, West Virginia  
 Sleepy Hollow Restoration, Inc., Irvington, N. Y.  
 Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.  
 The New York Enthusiasts, Inc., New York City

### RESEARCH

Filmfax Productions, New York City  
 Arthur Lodge Productions TV, New York City  
 Paramount Pictures, Hollywood, Calif.  
 20th Century Fox, Beverly Hills, Calif.  
 RKO Pictures, Los Angeles, Calif.

## History Of E.A.I.A.

(Continued from Page 28)

Richmondville, New York, will long be remembered not only as one of the foremost experts on our early industries but one of our most interesting talkers and the auctioneer who, at the Shelburne meeting, with unsurpassed skill and enthusiasm, enthused each member to try to outbid another and thus enriched the treasury of the Association by over \$1000. Mr. Simmons is one of the three Vice Presidents of the Association and his splendid collection of over 4000 different items is now at the Museum of the Staten Island Historical Society.

Charles Rufus Harte, deceased, was among those whose fund of knowledge was amazing and always available and since he was a mining engineer he was an authority on metals and iron working. In this same class

was Charles E. Ayers, an enthusiastic member who died in 1954 after 20 years of service to the Association as a member of the board and organizer of several local and annual meetings.

Mr. Roscoe Smith, founder of the Old Museum Village of Smith's Clove in Monroe, New York, together with Mrs. J. Watson Webb, founder of the Shelburne Museum, Vermont, have served on the Board, been hosts to the Association, and their museums have brought to thousands the purposes of the Association.

Rudolf B. Hommel, director and author of the scholarly book *China at Work* and associate of Dr. Henry C. Mercer, died in 1950 following an automobile accident. His learned approach to the subject of industries should long serve as a model for future work.

In the files of the *Chronicle*, other names now gone stand out as once active and as contributors to the *Chronicle*: S. Edson Gage, charter member and Chairman of the Admissions Committee, died in 1944, J. Earle Bacon, writer and collector, died in 1948, Wallace K. Brown, Vice-President 1946-1948 and organizer and President of the New Jersey Chapter until his death in 1948.

The roster of those, apart from those already mentioned, who for many years have given of their time either as contributors to the *Chronicle* or promoting the Association in other ways is large: Mrs. Gillian W. B. Bailey, Dr. Sigmund Epstein, for their articles and wealth of information, Miner J. Cooper, for his "What-sit" Committee Chairmanship, Lawrence S. Cooke, Elwood J. Way, Janet R. MacFarlane, Mr. and Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Stanley Howe, Joseph W. Rake, James A. Keillor, Lawrence A. Johnson, and S. Sanger Attwill, for service on the Board, as officers and for many other contributions.

As the first quarter-century of the Association's existence draws to a close and we appraise the work which has been accomplished, we have cause for both satisfaction and uneasiness. The *Chronicle*, an active Association devoted to preserving the tools and traditions of our ancestors, and collections, private and public, are causes for satisfaction. However, on the side of uneasiness, the splendid articles in the *Chronicle* and Dr. Henry C. Mercer's book, *Ancient Carpenters Tools* still stand as the sole scholarly writings concerning the tools of our Early American Industries. Apart from the splendid collections and the Museums which house them and which are the work of private philanthropists such as Henry Ford I, Albert Wells, John D. Rockefeller II, Stephen C. Clark, Dr. Henry C. Mercer, Mrs. J. Watson Webb, and Roscoe Smith, the bulk of the work in preserving our industrial history is in the hands of unpaid volunteers. As admirable as this amateurism may be it is not preserving our industrial history as rapidly as it is being destroyed. A report of a large Foundation lists grants for fellowships to study various cultures abroad for vocational and crafts training in far-off India and Iran, and for studies on the laws and values of non-literate peoples of the Belgian Congo. However, no grant is listed to study and record the vanishing tools and industries of America or their origins in England and Continental Europe. This is the cause for uneasiness, and as we look forward to our next 25 years we might well seek a remedy.

## The Chronicle

Early American  
Industries Association, Inc.

The purpose of the association is to encourage the study and better understanding of early American industry, in the home, in the shop, on the farm, and on the sea, and especially to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men, and other workers.

FRED C. SABIN, *President*  
Little Falls, New York

LORING McMILLEN, *Vice-President*  
Staten Island Historical Society  
Richmond, Staten Island, New York

GEORGE M. SIMMONS, *Vice-President*  
Richmondville, N. Y.

M. W. THOMAS, JR., *Vice-President*  
Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

LAWRENCE COOKE, *Vice-President*  
436 Webster Street, Needham, Mass.

PER ERNEST GULDBECK, *Secretary*  
New York State Historical Association  
Cooperstown, New York

MRS. FRANK D. PEIRCE, *Treasurer*  
51 Paxton Street, Leicester, Mass.

JOHN P. FOX, *Membership Chairman*  
Corning Glass Center, Corning, N. Y.

W. D. GEIGER - RAYMOND R. TOWNSEND  
*Editors of The Chronicle*  
Colonial Williamsburg  
Williamsburg, Virginia

MINER J. COOPER  
*General Chairman Whatsit Committee*  
Main Street, Windsor, New York

LEWIS WIGGINS, *President Emeritus*  
500 Cherokee Ave., Los Angeles, California

Communications regarding the contents of *The Chronicle* and back issues should be addressed to the Editors; suggestions for members to John P. Fox; all other matters to the President Address as here given.

### DUES

The annual dues are payable on January 1st and are \$5.00. The *Chronicle* is published quarterly and is sent to all members without additional charge. Printed on the press of the *Virginia Gazette*, founded 1736, Williamsburg, Virginia.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this, the 25th Anniversary issue of the *Chronicle* of our *Early American Industries Association*, we should first pay tribute to that small group of interested people, who at Wiggins' Old Tavern twenty-five years ago, met and organized our Association. Little did they dream that we would mature and develop into the fine organization we now are.

We should also pause for a moment and pay tribute to the many who have been interested and instructive members over the years and who are no longer with us. Their guidance has been invaluable to our association.

We would like also to welcome those who have become new members in our Association and as they read the pages of this, our Anniversary issue, we trust they will treasure with us, the friendships made, the store of knowledge acquired, and the pleasant memories of our association, through the annual meetings so much a part of our organization, and through the *Chronicle*. It is my sincere hope that this will continue for many years.

The purpose of the EAIA is to encourage a better understanding and appreciation of early American Industry in the shop, in the home, on the farm and on the sea. Through its members it seeks to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit the old tools, implements, utensils, vehicles and mechanical devices made and used by our forefathers. We accomplish this through our annual meetings and the *Chronicle*.

May this creed always abide with us as we continue on to meet the challenge of future years.

Fred C. Sabin  
*President*

Fred C. Sabin

(Continued from Page 33)

historical and educational organizations, the New York State Historical Society, the Herkimer County Historical Society, the Canal Society of New York State, the National Trust for Historical Preservation in the United States, and the American Association for State and Local History.

Dr. Sabin continues to give to the Association the kind of outstanding leadership that it has enjoyed from his predecessors. He has led the Association to annual meetings at Winston Salem, North Carolina and leads us on our twenty-fifth anniversary to our meeting at the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn. As the *Early American Industries Association* continues to grow so do the responsibilities of its officers and its President. It is indeed comforting to know that the present holder of this Office is following in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors.

# The Chronicle

## THE WHATSIT PROGRAM

by Minor J. Cooper, *Whatsit Chairman*

The development of machinery that freed mankind from the necessity of lengthy and labourious hand manufacturing left in its wake many early American tools and implements no longer needed. Some were destroyed, others tucked away in forgotten places, to be later found but quite often the knowledge of their use and purpose was no longer known to their discoverer. These unknown tools and implements once played an important part in our country's early industrial development. In order to afford them the proper recognition that they so well deserve it is first necessary to determine for what purpose they were used and how they were employed.

It has been the purpose and desire since the founding of the *Early American Industries Association* that these unknown tools and implements might be identified. As stated in the first issue of the *Chronicle* under "Points of Interest," number eleven: "In each issue we shall illustrate tools, the use of which is unknown to the present owner for the purpose of identification. If you can help us please advise the Secretary and such information will be published in the following issue of this bulletin," and as stated in "Our Purpose": "... to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men and other workers." With these intentions in mind our organization proceeded to develop methods by which these aims might be achieved.

In the early years of our Association the problem of what was a real unidentified object and what was not became of great concern. Needless hours were spent studying objects, only to learn that the owner already knew what they were, and owners having a really unidentified object often went home disappointed, when a carefully directed effort might have found the answer. Certainly, this was not what our founders had in mind when they said "to identify."

A few of us became greatly concerned about this situation, and although realizing the great barriers to be hurdled, pledged ourselves to do our utmost to develop a process which would produce maximum results, and closely adhere to the principles laid down by our founders.

Starting with the fall meeting at Cooperstown in 1953, a tentative program was tried out, and this was corrected, improved, and rewritten before each succeeding meeting. The pitfalls were myriad! This led to the development, in the winter of 1957, of the "Manual of Whatsit Procedures." This manual presently runs to twelve sections and thirty pages, with all directions fully coordinated, and gives separate, detailed directions for each phase of the operation, and for each person or committee involved.

At the fall meeting at Columbus in 1956, the term WHATSIT was adopted as the official name for an unidentified object, and the office of Whatsit General Chairman was elevated to official capacity at the Old Salem meeting last fall.

The "Whatsit Identification Circuit" has been ten-

tatively developed whereby photos and information on Whatsits remaining unidentified after processing at a meeting may be circulated among various members, museums, and other sources of probable information. A sample folio is now being circulated to ascertain whether improvement or corrections are necessary. It should prove its worth after a few mailings.

Although we have now developed what appears to be an excellent procedure for the identification process, much still remains to be done, and we will continue to strive for the ultimate goal. However, no plan can possibly succeed without the full cooperation and help of every member of the Association.

We have made some progress. Our Whatsit Program is being written up in papers and magazines all over the country, and is becoming a famous feature of our activities. Many persons are awakening to its great value to our country's educational facilities.

More and more of our members are becoming Whatsit conscious. Less material already identified by owners is being delivered to the Whatsit display area, leaving us more time to work on the real Whatsits. Most important, however, is the fact that more members are themselves awakening to the pleasure, satisfaction, and delight of coming up with the correct identification after a long, hard battle with one of the difficult ones. If we can get the help we need I think we will have the problem licked.

Let us make this, our twenty-fifth anniversary, the turning point in the development of an identification process that would be justly and gratefully approved by our founders.

That we are making steady progress towards this goal is manifested more and more each day. Perhaps an excellent recent example is that of an article which appeared in the Syracuse, New York, *Post Standard* of July 13, 1958. In the Magazine Section of this paper appears a story written by Walter Carroll concerning a group of unidentified tools and implements belonging to members of the *Early American Industries Association*. The detailed photographs appearing in this publication were compiled by Laurence Johnson of Syracuse and there can be little doubt that this article aroused a tremendous interest in the Syracuse area and a number of responses were received by Mr. Carroll with several containing some suggested identifications.

We are listing a few of the responses received by the *Post Standard* as to the possible use of the "whatsit."

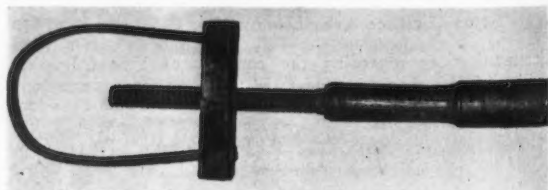


Fig. 1 WOODEN SCREW — The handle is 16½ inches long. The loop is 7¼ inches long.

Fig. 1. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) "is a special c'amp." (2) "... used for fashioning

and shaping horse collars as they were being stuffed and sewed up. Another piece required."

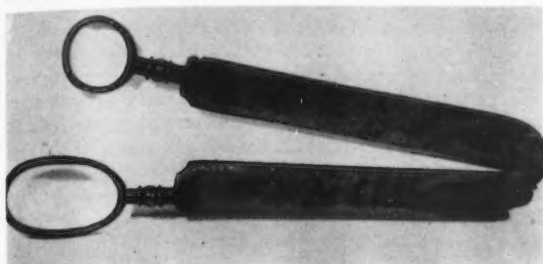


Fig. 2 DID SURGEONS USE IT? This well made instrument is about 8 inches long. Who used it . . . surgeon or craftsman?

Fig. 2. Sent in by Mr. Samuel Lessey. Responses: (1) "If I could see the castrating clamp I would be able to say yes or no but that is my guess. There are small notches on each blade just above the handles. In use, the Clamp is squeezed on the sack shutting off the circulation. After the incision is made and the testicles removed, a hot iron is run over the blades to sear the cut and stop bleeding. There should be a spring ring or C clamp of spring steel that snaps into the two small notches."

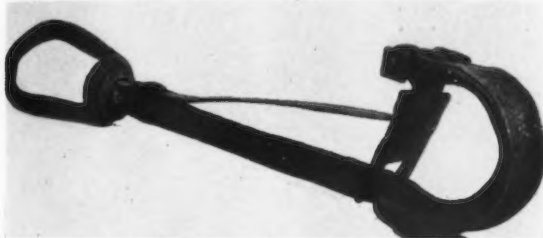


Fig. 3 ATTENTION, ENGINEERS! This iron object is about a foot long.

Fig. 3 Sent in by Mr. Samuel Lessey. Responses: (1) "... is a 'snatch hook' for some special use." (2) "No engineering problem. Swivel hooks with safety latches to keep rope from falling or snapping out are common today." (3) "... is a type used to lift water from a farm well. A rope of sufficient length to reach down in the water was tied to the swivel clevis at the top and a pail was hooked on the lower section, secured by the hinged crosspiece, the tongue suspended from the main rod preventing the crosspiece from opening to release the container as it settled in the water."

Fig. 4. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) "... is a whaling spade for cutting blubber." (2) "Ever go ice fishing? When you spud holes in the ice, it's very easy to let the spud slip out of your hands as it finally breaks through the ice." "I think ... is an ice spud with prongs on each side to keep it from going through the hole into the water!" and (3) "I don't know where the pattern for the 'Ice Spud' came from but I saw one in Montana. They sawed the ice in long strips on the pond, then pushed the strip toward the loading spot. On the way, one man split the ice off in blocks with the horned spud. The horns were used to pull the strip or blocks in," and (4) "Ice spud for harvesting ice when they had no saw. The hooks were to pull the cakes of ice close to edge of ice."



Fig. 4 CHOPPED WHAT? The blade is 9½ inches long and 5¼ inches wide.

Fig. 5. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) "Somebody's idea for rolling whiting or white lead into common putty, trying to make it easier than doing it just with the hands. When whiting was mixed into the putty it became very hard on drying out in place around a window pane. If a window pane got broken and you had to dig out that old putty mixed that way—it was a real chore to get it out without taking a lot of the wood along with it. A little raw linseed oil kept the mixture from getting too dry to work well as the dry powder was added." and (2) "... due to the fact it is a swivel gate I have a notion it might have been used for counting small animals such as sheep. Only one could go through at a time. It is portable so could be used in a barn door or fence."

Fig. 6. Sent in by Mr. Samuel Lessey. Responses: (1) "These things were used to hold heavy beams together. I've seen my father use them when building a barn. They are pounded well into the beam so only the edge shows flush with the beam. I never did hear a name for them other than angle irons." (2) "... were driven into two wooden posts which were about 10 or 12 feet apart and boards were slid through these irons making a gate." (3) "My husband is a retired tradesman, mostly blacksmithing ... He says the iron objects fashioned from horse shoes were to hold small logs on skids. Small logs to be cut for wood, etc." (4) "... are used to tie timbers together in a barn where they come together at right angles particularly sills to keep the timbers from spreading. We have some in a part of our barn which is about



## The Chronicle

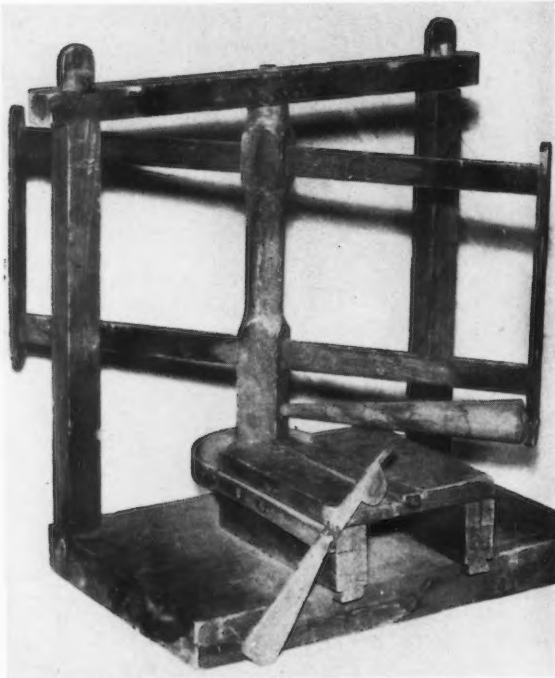


Fig. 5 BUTTER CHURN? Probably not. The bottom is  $15\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. The swinging center is 19 inches long. What is it?

150 years old. In remodeling I also had some made. Horseshoes were probably used because they were high grade steel difficult to get hold of otherwise in Pioneer days." (5) "... looks like something I have seen in old buildings used where two timbers are butted together these things were driven a point in each time to hold them together. I never saw one made from a houseshoe though." (6) "Big staples — Quick easy way to fasten beams together in framing a building. Drive points into the wood with a hammer." (7) "... I owned the old stone store ... The roof was heavy construction and I recall seeing many of these in the frame work. I do not know of any special name for them" and (8) "The enclosed clip is a ... pair of farm silo repair tools — used in building and repair both. I don't know the name of

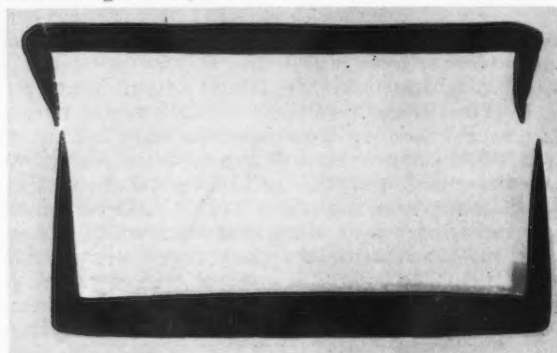


Fig. 6 — ??? These iron objects were fashioned from horse shoes. Each is eight inches long, from elbow to elbow.

them, but have heard them called "spreaders" and "staples," the latter being more common ... have been working on a farm near Malone, N. Y. this summer, and have had first hand experience with them ... a silo of wood is made like an overgrown barrel — a circle of staves held in a round shape by iron hoops on the outside. Due to decay of the wooden staves, it is sometimes necessary to replace one or a number of staves. Taking out one stave, or two, could cause the collapse of the rest of the circle, so the "staples" (usually a pair of them) are driven into the staves *next* to the repair to keep them from separating or "closing" the circle when the defective one is taken out. They are also used to "spread" (thus the other name) staves and hold them apart for easy insertion of the stave replacement. The design hasn't changed a bit — and, I might add, they work very effectively."



Fig. 7 IT HAD A USE — This looks like a fork that became half knife. It is nine inches long.

Fig. 7. Sent in by Mr. Samuel Lessey. Responses: (1) "The knife with a prong on it is probably a bush hook. This type made to drive into a handle something like tines into a pitch fork handle to cut small brush like elderberry canes. The prong separated or parted the bushes so they could be cut easier. The usual type have no prong but two steel straps which hold them onto a handle similar to an axe handle but the knife or blade is shaped the same."





Fig. 8 *WHAT FOR?* The upright arm is 8 inches long. From tongue to elbow it's  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The hoop is  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide.

Fig. 8. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) "... is to hang from a beam." and (2) "good sturdy handle easily applied to some heavy wood object. Drive point into the wood with a hammer. Drive a heavy staple around the stem near handle."

Fig. 9. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) The little wringer was probably used by a harness maker." (2) "... may be someone's attempt at "perpetual motion." About 1870 almost everyone gave it a try resulting in the most ridiculous machines. Took one apart my uncle made about that time." and (3) "for wringing or squeezing the tanning liquid out of leather straps. Wet several times with water and wring to rinse out liquid."

Fig. 10. Sent in by Mr. Edward Durell. Responses: (1) "... is a sauerkraut cutter." (2) "We used a cutter similar to the "whatsit" shown for cutting turnips, beets and potatoes. We made that one but the pattern was one used in Lead, S. D. years before. I think to make dried apples." (3) "... a sauerkraut cutter." and (4) "could be a little planer for shaping small pieces of wood for craft work—cabinet or inlay."

Fig. 11. Responses: (1) "... holds a winding machine."

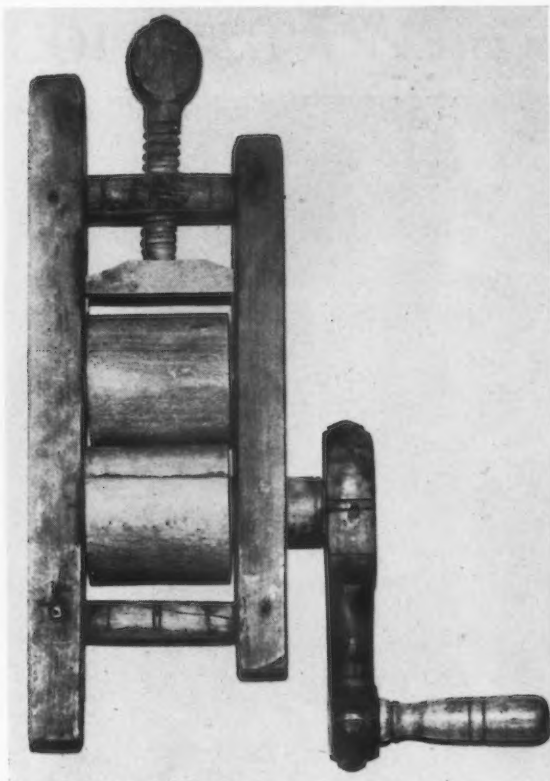


Fig. 9 *TO WRING AN ELF'S WASH?* — The left side is 15 inches tall, the right side is 12 inches long.



Fig. 10 *FRONT VIEW* — It is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall and  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. The experts would like to know what this was used for.

## The Chronicle

## Whatsit Program



Fig. 11 PUZZLED CURATOR — Miss Violet Hosler holds Onondaga Historical Association "Whatsit". The stove is a 110 year old parlor stove.

## Membership Chairmen

(Continued from Page 34)

J. EARLE BACON, (deceased)

Chairman of Recruiting Committee 1940 to 1944  
Providence, Rhode Island

MR. AND MRS. JOHN KENNETH BYARD

Chairmen of the Membership Committee 1950 to 1954  
Norwalk, Connecticut

ROBERT G. HILL

Membership Chairman 1954 to 1955  
Poughkeepsie, New York

JOSEPH W. RAKE

Membership Chairman 1955 to 1958  
Newburgh, New York

JOHN P. FOX

Present Membership Chairman  
Manager of the Corning Glass Center  
Corning, New York

## Directors Of E.A.I.A.

(Continued from Page 35)

- Durell, Edward, Columbus, Ohio  
Eaton, Dr. Allen, New York City  
Emerson, Sterling Rufus, Shelburne, Vt.  
Flanders, Hon. Ralph F., Springfield, Vt.  
Fox, John P., Corning, N. Y.  
Geesey, Titus E., Wilmington, Del.  
Geiger, William D., Williamsburg, Va.  
Goyette, Major A. Erland, Peterborough, N. H.  
Gwinn, David, Philadelphia, Pa.  
\*Harte, Charles Rufus, New Haven, Conn.  
Hatch Jr., John Davis, Norfolk, Va.  
Higgins, John W., Worcester, Mass.  
Hill, Robert G., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
\*Hommell, Rudolf P., Richlandtown, Pa.  
Johnson, Laurence A., Syracuse, N. Y.  
Keillor, James A., New York City  
Keith, Elmer D., Clintonville, Conn.  
Knittle, Mrs. Earl J., Ashland, Ohio  
Kollmer, Burton A., Fairhaven, N. J.  
Lane, Warren C., Leicester, Mass.  
Lessey, Samuel K., Doylestown, Pa.  
Lewton, Dr. Frederick L., Washington, D. C.  
Little, Bertram K., Brookline, Mass.  
Matthews, Ransom, Los Angeles, Calif.  
MacFarlane, Miss Janet R., Albany, N. Y.  
McCormick, W. L., Tacoma, Wash.  
McMillen, Loring, Richmond, Staten Island, N. Y.  
Niederlander, Daniel B., Williamsville, N. Y.  
Palmer, C. Carroll, Plainfield, N. J.  
Payne, Oscar V., Leicester, Mass.  
Peirce, Mrs. Josephine H., Worcester, Mass.  
Rake, Joseph W., Newburgh, N. Y.  
Redhed, William S., Champaign, Ill.  
Romaine, Lawrence B., Middleboro, Mass.  
Sabin, Dr. Fred C., Little Falls, N. Y.  
Sawyer, James C., Durham, N. H.  
Simmons, George M., Richmondville, N. Y.  
Smith, Leland A., Monroe, N. Y.  
Smith, Roscoe W., Monroe, N. Y.  
Spinney, Frank O., Old Sturbridge Village, Mass.  
\*Sprague, William B., New York City  
Still, John, Columbus, Ohio.  
\*Srow, Charles Messer, New York City  
\*Stoddard, Charles C., Richmond, Staten Island, N. Y.  
\*Swain, Frank K., Doylestown, Pa.  
Thomas, Minor Wine, Jr., Dearborn, Mich.  
Townsend, Raymond R., Williamsburg, Va.  
Vanderveer, Charles E., III, Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y.  
\*Wall, Alexander J., New York City  
Watkins, C. Malcolm, Washington, D. C.  
Way, Edward J., Washington, D. C.  
Webb, Mrs. J. Watson, Shelburne, Vt.  
\*Wells, Albert B., Old Sturbridge Village, Mass.  
Wells, Mrs. George, Old Sturbridge Village, Mass.  
Wiggins, Lewis N., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Williams, John S., Old Chatham, N. Y.  
Wolcott, Mrs. W. B., Riverton, N. J.  
Zepp, Edwin C., Columbus, Ohio.

\*—deceased.

## OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS

During the twenty-five years of existence of the *Early American Industries Association*, the members of this organization have made an outstanding contribution in preserving an aspect of American Life through the collections of tools and implements that they have acquired and preserved. Although there are a number of such collections which are outstanding, several deserve mention in this, our twenty-fifth Anniversary issue of the *Chronicle*. It is with considerable pride that the *Chronicle* can make mention of this notable contribution in this issue.

### *The William B. Sprague Collection*

William Buell Sprague, the first President and one of the founders of E.A.I.A. was an active collector and this is evidenced by a comment in the first issue of the *Chronicle* in which was stated, "W. B. Sprague, . . . collects farming and trade tools, and is especially interested in tools of the unusual and lesser known trades. He has a printed circular describing his wants in detail, which he will mail to anyone on request. He has for exchange or sale, some 200 duplicates and articles not in his line, and he will be glad to give details to anyone who will indicate what line he is interested in."

Just prior to his death, Mr. Sprague arranged for the transfer of his outstanding collection in its entirety to the industrial and farm museum being created at Cooperstown, New York. Many of the members of this Association have seen this outstanding collection at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown.

This collection is comprised of tools from the 18th and early 19th centuries, with a few items of the 17th century. The material was collected from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and the New England Area. The variety of material is enormous, ranging from carpenter's tools to household objects, implements and utensils, and has been incorporated into the various buildings in the Crossroads village at Cooperstown. These buildings include the Lippitt Farm, the Doctor's Office and the Bump Farm. In addition these collections have been used in many displays in the main craft building including, coopering, farming, animal husbandry, hat making, lighting, hunting, and fishing. The collection numbers some 2,000 pieces and serves as a testimony to the ability and scholarship of William B. Sprague. The collection includes pieces representing 33 crafts and industries.

### *The Frank H. Wildung Collection*

The Frank H. Wildung collection of hundreds of woodworking tools given to the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont, is international in scope, dating from 1400 to 1900. An important feature of this collection is the nearly 600 moulding planes. The major portion of these planes were made and used by early American craftsmen; however, some were used by early artisans in Japan, Burma, Indo-China, and most European and South American countries. Every moulding plane is different. Each one in a way expresses the individuality of the craftsman.

These planes are in excellent condition and if put in the hands of a skilled woodworker, could today produce finished work. They are mounted on peg board panels, well lighted by overhead illumination and coded so as to



*Broom Making Tools of The Sprague Collection in use at The Farmer's Museum at Cooperstown, New York.*



*The Wildung collection at Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont.*

be identified by reference cards placed on the guard rail. The moulding planes are part of a main tool display panel over eight feet high and sixty-five feet long. Several other panels total thirty-two feet in length. In addition, three wall cases contain the special tools, such as a plane maker's set which one artisan used for over fifty-three years. These items are housed in the Museum's Shaker Building.

## The Chronicle

A recently published catalogue of the over 2,000 woodworking tools at Shelburne Museum was written by Mr. Wildung and is illustrated with 300 photographs. A section is devoted to the moulding planes. As you look at this rare collection you might say to yourself, "There are the tools that helped build America." They are that impressive.

### *The Stephen C. Wolcott Collection*

Stephen C. Wolcott of Nutall, Virginia, the first Editor of the *Chronicle*, Secretary of this Association, and a man numbered among our founders, was an avid collector of the tools and implements so prized by this organization. In the first issue of the *Chronicle*, he stated, "Wanted, books, magazines, papers, pictures, prints, etc. on many of the trades . . . also photographs of exteriors and interiors of old shops and also catalogues of all kinds of tools used before 1860."



*The Wolcott Collection being accessioned at Colonial Williamsburg.*

In 1938, Mrs. Wolcott presented Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, Williamsburg, Virginia, her husband's collection of some 3,000 tools representing some forty crafts. The collection is composed of tools of both the 18th and 19th Century and has now been photographed individually, the pieces identified in so far as possible, and accessioned. A unique use has been made of these tools by Colonial Williamsburg. The bulk of the 18th Century portion of the collection has been placed again in the confines that they once knew, and are used again today by craftsmen whose feeling toward them, and skill with them, approximates that of their original uses. Today these tools are on display and in use in the Craft Shops of Colonial Williamsburg, including, the Black-

smith, Spinner and Weaver, Leatherworker, Bookbinder, Printer, Baker, Wigmaker, Cabinetmaker, and Miller. In addition a great number of the agricultural implements and tools of the domestic or household craftsman are displayed in their natural setting in the lumber house of the George Wythe House, one of Colonial Williamsburg's major Exhibition Buildings, in the Scullery of the Governor's Palace where candles are made, and in the Brush Garden House. The balance of the collection provides an excellent study collection which can be viewed by any visitor to Williamsburg at his request. It is this outstanding collection that formed the basis of the physical recreation of the crafts of an 18th century American colonial community.

### *The George M. Simmons Collection*

George M. Simmons began his collection about 40 years ago, beginning in his native county of Schoharie, New York, southwest of Albany. The collection therefore reflects the culture of a German and Dutch community with English influences of the 19th century. Other items similar in origin were collected elsewhere in the Hudson valley.



*The Simmons collection at The Staten Island Historical Society, Richmond, Staten Island.*

For many years Mr. Simmons collections was displayed at "the Simmons Mu-Z-M, Up the Bears Gulf Valley, Richmondville, N. Y. . . ." "Open day or evening," he stated this in a circular and in *The Chronicle* in 1941. Mr. Simmons also showed portions of his collections at various other places and devised an ingenious method of carrying and displaying them. He devised a wooden box so that it could be opened at the center, set up, and the various tools and implements secured on the inside for display.

The collection comprises approximately 3,500 items representing 85 different trades or industries. There are no duplicates since each item was chosen carefully to tell its part in the story of a particular industry. Typical of the industries represented are rope and cord making, maple sugar, the trades of the cooper, carpenter, shoemaker, bootmaker, the many industries of the farm, the household and others. A collection of over 300 lighting

(Continued on Page 56)



# Early American Industries

## THE TANNER AND THE CURRIER

Page 49

by William B. Sprague

Reprinted from Vol. I, Number 14, 15, 16 (November 1935, January, March, 1936)

(AUTHOR'S NOTE — The capital letters interspersed through the text refer to the list of authorities at the end of the article the page number being given as well, when thought necessary. The expression "No Fig." means that we have been unable to find a specimen of the article in question, from which an illustration could be made.)

The object of converting the skins of animals into leather, by the processes known as *tanning* and *currying*, is to prevent their destruction by putrefaction, to render them tough and durable, impervious to moisture, to a greater or less degree (E), and, for some purposes, soft and pliable (P).

The most primitive method of producing leather was to soak the skins in water, and then to force oil into the pores by hard rubbing, a process mentioned by Homer (P), but Pliny's references to the materials used in treating leather shows that both the tanning and tawing operations were practiced in his time (D2489). The first tannery in New England is said to have been established

the timber has been felled (E, G), but occasionally before (F). The tool with which the bark was formerly stripped is still recognized in New England as a *spud* (Fig. 1F), which was also the Pennsylvania name for it (C), although one authority defines *spud* as a "root-digger" (D2292). Other names were *bill* (F) and *peeling iron* (D231). The bark was first slit longitudinally with an axe or hatchet (D231) or with a *barking mallet* (No Fig.), a short-handled tool, sometimes of hard wood, though preferably of iron, with a face three inches square, and the other end sharpened to a wedge or peen, which could also be used for ringing the tree (D232). The spud is found in many different forms, but is always constructed on the same general lines as the modern tool for opening crates and packing boxes, with chisel-like blade (lacking, of course, the notch for nail-drawing), and bent into a curve to furnish leverage. The slabs of bark, after being stripped off, were stacked in piles, and allowed to dry (M). They were then ground to coarse powder in a mill (F, G, M, N). "If tanning materials are simply broken

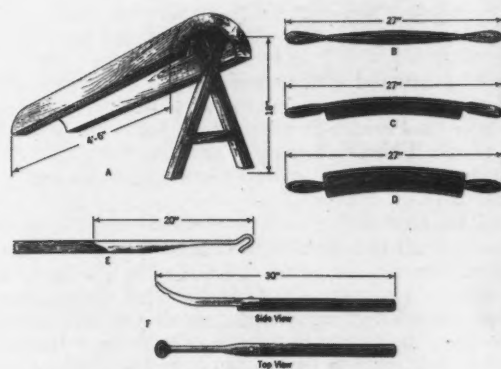
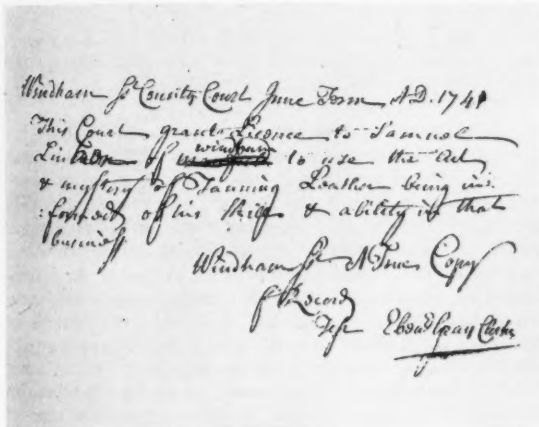


Fig. 1 - TANNER'S TOOLS

at Lynn, Mass., in 1629 (A), and, in 1660, the industry was so thriving in New York, that a section of the city was set aside to accommodate it (B. Nevertheless, as late as 1750, Massachusetts farmers did their tanning (S), and it was not until about 1800, that the process was properly understood, or carried out on the correct principles (F, H, P).

In the trade, the stoutest kinds of hides are known as *butts* and *backs* (G, O). Technically, hides are those of mature cattle, while *skins* are taken from calves, goats, sheep, and other smaller animals (F, H, L). The very lightest *skins* are *kips* (I, O).

The bark most preferred for tanning purposes is that of the oak (E, F, N), although, when oak is not available, other kinds may be used, such as alder or willow (N), hemlock, spruce or chestnut (H), birch (C), larch (M), sumach (R) as well as barks from many varieties of foreign trees, which latter, however, are principally for the production of fancy leathers (G). Tanbark should be taken from trees at least thirty years old (F), in the spring when the sap has risen (E, F, G), usually after

by a series of clean cuts, only those cells directly on the surfaces of the cuts will be ready to yield their tannin.

\*\*\*Hence it is necessary to bruise, break and otherwise sever the walls of all the cells" by grinding (I).

Before proceeding to the tanning process, the hide was soaked in water for two or three days, and given a superficial scraping to free it from dirt and other impurities (E, G). It was then placed in a pit containing a solution of lime and water, and left for two or three weeks, during which period it was drawn out daily, drained and put back (F, M, H, O), — a process called *handling* (G, I). Some tanners, in preference to the lime bath, *sweated* (O) the hide in a smokehouse, heated by a smouldering fire, which caused a slight putrefaction and loosened the flesh and hair (D, K, L), and in the case of sheep skins, permitted the salvage of the wool, which would be adversely affected by the action of the lime (I, R). Others substituted for the lime solution a liquor made by boiling down, in a copper kettle, the ground-up wood, roots and leaves of the tree from which the tanbark was taken (N). The lighter *skins* were usually prepared for



## The Chronicle

tanning by immersing them in a lxivium of dog or poultry dung (E, F, G, H), called a *grainer* (P). This was sometimes called *bating* or *puering* (I).

For removing the hair, the workman used a curved two-handled scraper, called the *unhairing knife* (G, O, Fig. 1C), the blade of which was brought to an edge only on its lower or concave side. The hide or skin was spread on a "cylindrical table" (G, O), a "wooden horse of convex form," (L, P), usually called the *beam* (G, H, I, Fig. 1A). Some of the early beams were of stone (E, J), but the usual material, as in the case of the illustrated example, was *lignum vitae*. One end of the beam rested on the floor, and the other end, by means of a movable two-legged support was raised to about the level of the *beamsman's* waist. The concave curve of the knife's edge fitted the convex surface of the beam (D2681, G, O), and the workman, by pushing strokes (R), "partially scrapes and partially shaves off the hair and epidermis" (I).

The next step was to clean from the inner side all particles of animal tissue and *net skin*, called *fleshing*. The *fleshing knife* (D2490, F, N, Fig. 1D), in construction similar to the unhairing knife, was two-edged, the concave edge being used for the scraping, and the convex edge for trimming off such portions of the skin as the workman knew, by experience, would not readily respond to the tanning process (R). Occasionally, fleshing preceded unhairing (E, J), but this was not usually the case (R).

The material was next soaked for some forty-eight hours in a solution of sulphuric acid, in order to distend the pores and render it more susceptible to the action of the tannin. This was known as *raising* (D, F, L). Other solutions were sometimes used for the same purpose (E, G, M).

"The tan yard usually occupies a considerable extent of ground and above it are lofts for drying the tanned leather. The tan-pits, which are formed in the earth, are oblong in shape, from 6 to 8 feet in depth. In forming a tan-pit the whole ground is first excavated, and covered with clay; the boards which form the lining to each pit are first built up into chests, then adjusted in their places, and filled with earth to weight them down; the various pipes for conveying the ooze are next arranged and fixed, and lastly, the spaces between the wooden chests are filled up with clay, and made level with the surface of the ground, producing the appearance of a number of pits, in rows side by side, with narrow spaces between them for the convenience of the workmen." (G). Sometimes, the tanners wore wooden shoes, which were immune to the action of the tannin (R).

The pits were filled with a solution of tannin powder and water, called *ooze* (F, J, H, N), and the material soaked in this for a period varying from three months for light skins to a year and a half for the heaviest hides (F), during which time it was necessary to renew (F, L), and strengthen (E, N), the *ooze* solution at monthly intervals. Each day the hides and skins were *handed*, — i. e., moved up and down (F, L), — and sometimes taken out, drained and restored to the pit (D-2490). This was generally done with long-handled, blunt-pointed hooks (G, I, Fig. 1E), although machinery for the purpose became available at a comparatively early date (D2490). The details of the tanning process varied according to the quality and type of leather desired (F, L, N, P), and special

steps were required for the production of Russian leather, morocco, chamois, etc. (E, F, G, I, M), but as these involved merely chemical variations, rather than different sets of tools, it is assumed that the reader will wish to be spared the technical details. The most delicate kinds of leather, made from *pelts* (E, P), never went into the tan-pits, but were *tawed* with alum and salt (D2500, E, G, P), to which the yolks of eggs was added, if they were to be finished white (M).

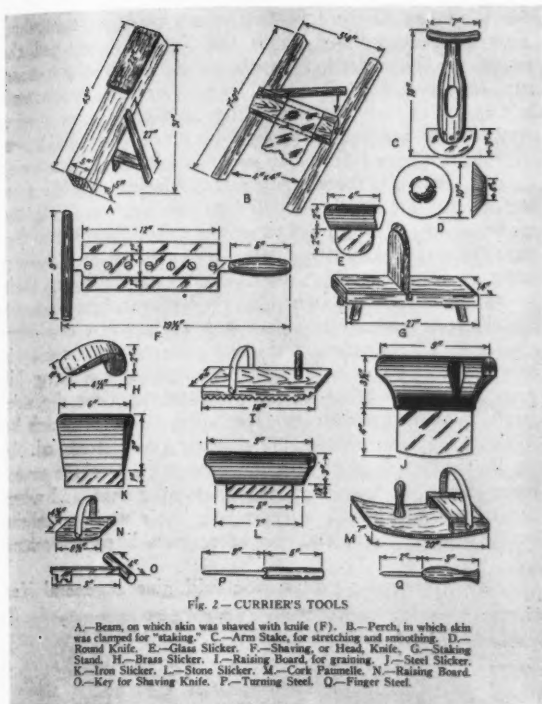
After tanning or tawing, as the case might be, the material was hung up to dry gradually, and then "compressed with a steel instrument (No Fig.) and beaten smooth to render them fine and dense" (F, L), beaten "with a wooden bottle" (E, H, No Fig.) or a wooden hammer, called a *batt* (P, No Fig.) or with a "steel pin" (E, M, No Fig.), and passed between iron rollers (E, H, I, M), or laid flat and pressed with a heavy, movable roller (G, ill.).

*Bloom* is a white substance, chemically known as elagic acid, always present in hides and skins, which "has water-proofing qualities, because it fills the leather, at the same time giving weight." (I). To bring this to the surface the leather was laid on a "long cylindrical horse" (O, No Fig.) similar to the beam, except that it was fixed in a horizontal rather than a slanting, position (G, ill.), and then *pinned* (I) or *struck* (G, O), — meaning "smoothed" in this case, — with the *striking knife* (D-2429), or *pin* (I), a two-handled steel instrument, with triangular cross section (G, O, Fig. 1B), and finally sometimes ironed with "warm hand-irons" (N).

The tanner's work was now done, and such of his product as was intended for sole leather and the like was finished (P), but where it was to be used by the shoemaker (for uppers), the coach or harnessmaker (F, G), or the bookbinder (L), it must needs be worked upon by the currier, to improve its smoothness, color, lustre and suppleness (F, G). "The currier's shop has no resemblance to the tanner's premises, having a quite different set of tools and manipulations" (F) although "except in and near large cities, the business of tanning and currying are usually united in the same individual; or, at least, the two branches of business are carried on together, by the aid of workmen skilled in their respective trades" (H).

The leather turned over by the tanner to the currier was almost as stiff as a board (R) and was thoroughly soaked in water to make it more workable (G, H, L, K). For the same purpose, "the currier employs a strong hurdle about a yard square (No Fig.), made either of basket twigs, or of wooden spars, fixed rectangularly like trellis work, with holes 3 inches square, upon which he treads the leather, or beats it with a mallet or hammer. \*\*\* The mace (No Fig.) is made of wood, having a handle 30 inches long, with a cubical head, upon the two faces of which, parallel to the line of the handle, there are 4 pegs of hard wood turned of an egg-shape, and well polished, so as not to tear the moistened leather" (F).

The curriers *beam* (Fig. 2A) bore little resemblance to that of the tanner. It consisted of an upright plank, sometimes adjustable as to angle (G), and faced with a piece of *lignum vitae* (I, O, G), about two feet long, two inches thick and six inches wide, called a *beam board* (L). Beam boards were imported in the required size and shape (L). The shaving knife (Fig. 2F), sometimes called a *head knife*, was a most curious and interesting in-



strument. It consisted of a flat metal blade, about a foot long and a third as broad, the round handle at one end being in prolongation of the long dimension of the blade, and the other at right angles, but in the same plane (D-633, L.). In the most primitive type, but one piece of metal is employed, with tangs at either end driven into the handles, but, at an early date, and while these tools were still made by the blacksmith, the blade, a separate piece, was held between two flat bars or narrow plates, two or three inches wide, the ends of which entered the handles (I.). Sometimes the blade was fixed in place between the plates by rivets, and sometimes by threaded screws, and occasionally the handles also were screwed on to the ends of the plates, in which case, in order to take the tool apart, it was necessary to use a sort of key (Fig. 2O), the end of which turned the heads of the screws which held the plates together, and the two lateral projections engaged in corresponding recesses in the end of the straight handle, so that the key could be operated as a crank to loosen it. The blade wore down so rapidly, through constant whetting, that it was worthwhile economy to replace it, rather than discard the whole tool (R.). Each side of the blade was "brought to a wire edge by rubbing on a stone or coarse grit" (L.) called the *rub stone* (D1998, No Fig.), "which edge is afterwards taken off, and a finer edge produced by a finer and softer stone" (L.) called the *clearing-stone* (D-1998, No Fig.). The cross handle of the knife is then firmly fixed between the workman's knees, and while in a kneeling posture, he turns the edges to an angle with their former position, by means of a polished steel, similar in shape to a butcher's steel" (L.), called the *turning steel* (D2366, Fig. 2P). The wet skin (L.) "being thrown flesh uppermost over the vertical beam, the shaver presses his body against it, and leaning over the top, holds the knife by its two hand-

les, almost at right angles to the leather, and proceeds to shave it by a scraping stroke downward, which the wire edge, being set at right angles to the knife and almost parallel with the skin, turns into a cut" (I.). The position of the skin was constantly shifted, so as to bring all parts of it under the action of the knife, the shaver frequently passing a fold between his fingers to test the progress of his work (G, I). To preserve the keenness of the knife, a smaller steel, called the *finger steel* (D2366, Fig. 2Q) was constantly held between the workman's fingers (G, L) by the knob at the end of the handle, and as often as necessary, was passed along the edge (G, I) "the point within, and the side without the groove, formed by the turned edge" (L). The object of the shaving operation was to reduce and equalize the thickness of the leather (G, O).

The skin was then soaked in a weak solution of soft soap and borax (I), thrown, flesh side down, upon a table of stone or mahogany (G, No Fig.) and worked with a steel *slicker* (I, Fig. 2J), sometimes called a *stretching iron* (D2427, F, G, O), to eliminate lumps and inequalities and to extend the skin (F, O). "The wooden part (of the slicker) is grasped in both hands and the blade is half rubbed and half scraped over the surface of the leather in successive strikes, the angle of the slicker being a continuation of the angle which the thrust out arms of the worker form with the body, perhaps  $30^\circ$  or  $45^\circ$ , with the leather, depending on the pressure to be applied" (I). It was then *scoured* on the grain or hair side with pumice stone (F, I, K, L), to clean off the surface bloom (F, K), and afterwards *sleeked* with a steel or brass slicker (I, Fig. 2H) and then dried, and *stuffed* or *dubbed* (probably a corruption of daubed) with oil (F, G, K, L). "All the oiled or dressed skins are dressed with the round knife (Fig. 2D), — a circular knife from 10 to 12 inches in diameter, with a round 4 or 5 inch hole in its center, for introducing the hands and working it. It is concave, presenting the form of a spherical zone. The concave part is that applied to the skin. Its edge is not perfectly straight; but is a little turned over on the side opposite to the skin, to prevent it from entering too far into the leather. \*\*\* A cylindrical bar fixed horizontally at its ends to two buttresses projecting from the wall, serves by means of a parallel stretched cord, to fix a skin by a coil or two in order to dress it. This is accordingly called the *dresser* (No Fig.). \*\*\* Strong-toothed pincers (No Fig.) with hook-end handles, drawn together by an endless cord, are employed to stretch the leather in any direction, while it is being dressed" (F). The workman then "lays hold of the pendant under edge with the pincers attached to his girdle, and with both hands applies the edge of the knife to the surface of the leather slantingly from above downwards, and thus pares off the coarser fleshy parts of the skin. This operation requires great experience and dexterity; and when well performed improves greatly the look of the leather" (F).

The skin was then folded with the grain side in contact (D648, R), and rubbed with a corrugated or smooth board (Fig. 2I, N), variously called a *raising board* (D1874), *graining board* (L), *arm board* (I), *pommel* (F, G) or *crippler* (D648). This was called *boarding* (I, L), or *graining* (D1006, F), the object being to give a granular appearance and to increase suppleness and flexibility (F, G, I). It was then *sized* with a mixture of two or more of the following substances: bees-



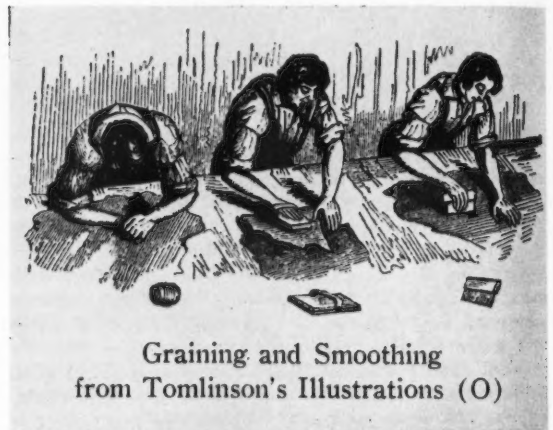
Shaving on the Beam  
from Tomlinson's Illustrations (O)

wax, pitch, linseed oil, tallow, soap, glue, and logwood extract (I), applied with a brush or sponge (F, L), and rubbed in with a glass slicker (G, I, Fig. 2E), and afterwards *waxed*, with a brush dipped in oil and lamp black, on the flesh side, till thoroughly black (F, L). The wrinkles were removed and the coarse grain smoothed with a "good grit stone" (F), or with the edge of a "narrow, smooth stone set in a handle" (Fig. 2L), and with an iron slicker of similar shape" (Fig. 2K) the table on which this was done being inclined away from the workman (H). Final graining was produced by rubbing with a "ball of boxwood (No Fig.) round the center of which small parallel grooves are cut" (G, M, O), "forming an equal number of narrow ridges" (E), or with a *paumelle* (pommel) of cork (N, Fig. 2M) which had a smooth surface (F), and a high polish obtained (R) by applying a little oil, and rubbing with a glass ball (G, M, O, No Fig.), cut into a polygonal surface (E), or with a glass slicker (H).

A further process, known as *staking*, was employed only when extreme smoothness and suppleness was required, as for glove-making, and was probably applied only to tawed skins (F, G). The *staking stand* (Fig. 2G) consisted of an iron blade, set in the upper end of an upright plank, mounted in a heavy stand or bolted to the floor (G). The skin was dipped in water for a few minutes (F), and thrown over the blade of the stake. "The workman, holding the extremities of the skin with both hands, pulls it in all directions forcibly, but skillfully, against the pressure of his knee to one end or the other (T). Another means of accomplishing the same purpose was with the *arm stake* and the *perch* (T). The arm stake (Fig. 2C) had a similar blade, although smaller, mounted at one end of a wooden handle, and a slightly curved cross-piece of

wood, similar to the top piece of a crutch, at the other. This cross-piece fitted under the right armpit, and the fingers of the right hand were passed through the aperture in the handle. The tool hung from the workman's left shoulder, when not actually in use, by means of a leather loop around his neck. The perch (Fig. 2B) was a heavy H-shaped frame of wood, inclined and fastened against the wall, there being a movable wooden bar resting on the cross-piece, pivoted at one end, and capable of being locked or unlocked at the other. With this bar raised at one end, perhaps half a dozen skins were thrown over the cross-piece, so that about two-thirds of their length hung down in front, and the bar was then let down and locked, holding the skins as in a vise. The workman then grasped the topmost skin at its lower edge with his left hand, and holding it taut but constantly shifting his grip, forced the blade of the arm stake against the skin from its upper part to its edge, until all parts which he could reach were thoroughly smoothed and stretched. As he finished with each skin, he flipped it over the cross-piece of the perch, and proceeded with the next, and when the outer ends of all were staked, their position in the perch was reversed, and the other ends likewise treated (T).

The foregoing explanation will give a general idea



Graining and Smoothing  
from Tomlinson's Illustrations (O)

of what tools and processes were used upon skins, as received from the butcher, before they could be used for the manufacture of shoes, gloves, harness, trunks, and other leather objects. In subsequent articles, it is planned to describe in detail how each of these finishing trades were carried on.

#### AUTHORITIES

- (A) *The Industrial History of the United States*, by Katharine Coman (MacMillan, N.Y., 1905) p. 66. (B) *Industrial History of the United States*, by Louis Ray Wells (MacMillan, N.Y., 1922) p. 79. (C) *Tools of the Nation Maker*, by Henry C. Mercer (Bucks Co. Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa. 1897). No. 24. (D) *American Mechanical Dictionary*, by Edward H. Knight, (Ford & Co. N.Y., 1874), for page numbers see text. (E) *The American Artists Manual*, by James Cutbush (Johnson & Warner, Phila., 1814). See "Bark", "Leather" no page numbers. (F) *Dictionary of Arts, Manufacturers and Mines*, by Andrew Ure (Appleton, N.Y., 1850) pp. 383-4, 768-76, 1231-2 (supp.) 158. (G) *Cy-*



*lopedia of Useful Arts*, by Charles Tomlinson (Virtue & Son, London, 1852) Vol. II., pp. 125-40). (H) *Panorama of Professions and Trades*, by Edward Hagen (Hunt, Phila., 1837) pp. 67-9. (I) *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th Ed. Vol. XVI., pp. 335-45. (J) *Cabinet of Useful Arts and Manufactures* (Bartlett, N.Y., 1827) pp. 120-31. (K) *The Progress of Man and Society*, by Rev. Dr. Trusler (Browne, London, undated, probably circa 1820) pp. 111-3. (L) *Book of English Trades* (Rivington, London, 1827) pp. 109-13, 328-32. (M) *Book of Trades* (Griffin, Glasgow, 1848) pp. 261-6. (N) *Five Thousand Receipts in all the Useful and Domestic Arts* (Mackenzie, Kay, Phila. 1830) pp. 280-4. (O) *Illustrations of Useful Arts and Manufactures*, by Charles Tomlinson (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, 1858) p. 62. (P) *American Family Encyclopedia*, by Webster & Parkes, (Derby & Jackson, N.Y., 1859, copyright 1845) pp. 216-21. (Q) *Book of Trades* (Tegg & Son, London, 1835) p. 140. (R) Information from Employees of R. Neumann & Co., Hoboken, N. J., an up-to-date thriving tannery, where the old hand methods have been almost entirely superseded by machinery, but not wholly forgotten. Secured through the courtesy of our member, Mr. M. R. Moffatt. (S) *Household Manufactures in the United States, 1640-1860*, by R. M. Tryon (University of Chicago Press, 1917) p. 201. (T) Information from Hon. William C. Mills, Gloversville, N. Y.

Harrison Elliott — 2, Selma K. Engel — 1, Dr. Sigmund Epstein — 9, N. R. Ewan — 2.  
J. Kipp Finch — 1, Thomas W. Fennel — 1, Charles I. Foster — 3, Dr. Dixon R. Fox — 2, Henry Ford Museum — 2.

S. Edson Gage — 3, Ruth Gaines — 3, Dr. Burton N. Gates — 2, William D. Geiger — 3, Comd'r Roger G. Gerry — 1, Walter P. Gillingham — 1, Earle T. Goodnow — 2, Harry S. Goodwin — 1, Mary E. Gould — 11, G. A. R. Goyle — 15, (Rudolf P. Hommel).

Patricia de Hahn — 1, Ethel Haines — 1, J. G. Harrington — 1, Charles Rufus Harte — 1, Donald G. Herold — 1, F. Hal Higgins — 2, Ralph N. Hill — 1, Robert G. Hill — 1, Penrose R. Hoopes — 7, Howard G. Huggard — 6, Charles W. Hughes — 2, Dard Hunter Jr. — 1, Garrett Hynson — 1.

W. W. Jackson — 1, Arthur E. James — 1, Laurence A. Johnson — 7, Amos E. Jewett — 1.

Joseph N. Kane — 2, Henry J. Kauffman — 5, Rhea M. Knittle — 3, Burton A. Kollmer — 2, Henry K. Landis — 10.

Warren C. Lane — 1, Cedric Larson — 1, Henrietta M. Larson — 1, William L. Lassiter — 1, Bertram K. Little — 1, Albert E. Lownes — 2, Rev. Clair F. Luther — 3, Paul H. Lyman — 2.

William H. MacDonald — 1, Janet R. MacFarlane — 14, Loring McMillen — 5, Horace M. Mann — 3, George L. Miner — 1, Mary Moore — 1, Joseph Moxon — 1, Eloise Stedman Myers — 2, Mrs. Leslie Niccolls — 1.

C. Carrol Palmer — 2, M. Parmentier — 1, Virginia Parslow — 1, Josephine H. Peirce — 6, Catharine A. Perry — 2, Josephine E. Phillips — 1, Arthur G. Pyle — 1, S. H. P. Pell — 1, Arthur Quay — 1.

Charles Reichman — 1, Earl F. Robacker — 1, Charles L. Robinson — 1, Lawrence B. Rommaine — 38, Willis H. Ropes — 4, Edward H. Ross — 1, Dr. Edward A. Rushford — 5, Jason A. Russell — 11, Joseph W. Roe — 1.

C. Clement Samford — 2, Joseph E. Sandford — 7, Scovill Mfg. Co. — 1, Shelburne Museum — 2, George M. Simmons — 1, Old Slater Mill — 1, Col. John Smith — 1, Glover A. Snow — 4, R. M. Sutherland — 1, William B. Sprague — 22, W. B. Stephens — 1, John S. Still — 1, Kyle Stirling — 1, Old Sturbridge Village — 1, Frank K. Swain — 6.

Minor Wine Thomas — 2, Leroy L. Thwing — 16, Enoch H. Thompkins — 1, Raymond R. Townsend — 6, W. W. Taylor — 1.

Alexander J. Wall — 2, Harold A. Warp — 1, William L. Warren — 1, Martha E. Warner — 1, Lura W. Watkins — 1, C. Malcolm Watkins — 5, John Wetherford — 1, Edwin C. Whittemore — 4, Frank H. Wildung — 1, Stephen C. Wolcott — 5, Arthur Woodward — 1, Lena Van Genderen — 1, Jared Van Wagenen — 5.

## FROM THE EDITORS

In compiling and editing the Twenty-fifth Anniversary issue of the *Chronicle* we would like to have mentioned each member who has made contribution to the Association. To do so would have necessitated more pages than we have allotted ourselves and so to those members we can only offer our gratitude for their service, past, present and future.

However, as the Editors of the *Chronicle*, we do feel obligated to give recognition to those who have served this publication so well. As a result we offer the names and major contributions of the various persons who have assisted in its preparation over the past 25 years.

Dr. Charles C. Adams—1, Frederick A. Adams—1, George M. Adams — 1, Frank P. Albright — 1, J. Sanger Attwill — 1, Frank C. Ayers — 1, J. Earle Bacon — 2.

Gillian W. B. Bailey — 3, Marion P. Banks — 1, Lockwood Barr — 2, Emma F. Bradford — 1, Newton C. Brainard — 5, M. V. Brewington — 2, Leslie W. Brower — 1, W. P. Brumback — 1, Bucks' County Historical Society — 1, Thomas Bullock — 1.

Katheleen Cairns — 1, Frank Cetin — 1, Miner J. Cooper — 4, George R. Cope — 1, Corning Glass Center — 1, Charles Courtney — 1, W. Parker Crutchfield — 2, Anna K. Cunningham — 1, Paul Cushman — 1, U. Waldo Cutler — 3.

Marshall Davidson — 1, Richard A. Day — 1, William DeMatteo — 1, Hannah S. Dodge — 2, George F. Dow — 1, Carl W. Drepperd — 5, Edward Durell — 2.



# The Chronicle

## CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN TOOLS OF CERTAIN TRADES

by S. C. Wolcott

Reprinted from Vol. I, Number 2, February, 1934

Let us say at once that the purpose of this article is to form a basis for criticisms and suggestions, in the hopes that out of such we may find a classification that will be the answer to our problem.

All of us who are interested in collecting tools or implements have realized the need of some system by which they may be classified. This would be a great help in identifying a tool and possibly in dating it. Also it would assist a collector by indicating what he needed to complete his collection.

To do this properly would necessitate a complete list of all trades, arts, crafts, pursuits, operations, and industries, practiced at the time in question. This, we understand, is being worked out by one of our members and will appear in a later issue of the *Chronicle*.

There is, however, another classification of tools, as such, and not including implements, which has been used in many catalogues and by Dr. Henry C. Mercer in his valuable book, *Ancient Tools*. In considering such a classification, we must first establish our basis of classification. It might be according to age, period, or century as Thomas Hibben has done in his most interesting book, *The Carpenters Tool Chest*, or we can use Dr. Mercer's basis, the use to which a tool was put, such as cutting, filing, scraping, sawing, and so forth.

For identification, the latter would seem to be the best. To perfect this idea, however, it should be extended to include all the different types of tools of each class; or at least such characteristics of each type as will identify it. To this can be added, in many cases, the period of century in which such tool was used, thus giving its possible age, though very indefinite, it is true.

We can extend this idea to include the locality in which it was most largely used. By using Mr. Hibben's book for reference or extending his illustrations to include a larger number of tools all of the same period, the date of more tools could be determined. This would be true also of the trade by which such a tool was used, that is by including a list of tools of each trade, or by some method indicating the various trades using it.

There are certain trades the tools of which are so peculiar to that trade and which by construction do not lend themselves to this classification that it seems better to class them all under that trade such as many cobblers' and saddlers' tools. In trying to identify such tools the only satisfactory way is to compare them to the illustrations of these tools.

We owe a great debt to Dr. H. C. Mercer and Thomas Hibben for their extensive and painstaking investigations, and the delightful and interesting shape in which they have handed them on to us.

The author hopes to hear from any one interested and will welcome suggestions. He has carried out these ideas in an extensive classification of carpenter's, cabinet maker's, cooper's, wheelwright's, millwright's, blacksmith's, farrier's, currier's, cobbler's, saddler's, ship-

wright's, chairmaker's, gunsmith's, pump-maker's, turner's, and farm and homemade tools. With his collection of over twenty-five hundred tools of these artisans to work with, he is still not entirely satisfied that he has the right arrangement of headings. To afford an opportunity to judge the system as at present outlined the following main headings are given.

It will be noticed that he has utilized as a basis, the use to which a tool was put.

### Chapter I

Shop Tools — This includes all large tools used essentially in a shop, transporting, lifting.

### Chapter II

Tools for Felling, Hewing, Chopping, Sawing, Splitting, Hitting

### Chapter III

Tools for Measuring, Marking, Leveling, Squaring, Plumbing, Gauging

### Chapter IV

Tools for Paring, Shaping, Fitting, Surfacing

### Chapter V

Tools for Boring, Punching

### Chapter VI

Tools for Clamping, Holding, Gripping, Prying

### Chapter VII

Tools for Adjusting, Fastening, Drawing, Pulling

### Chapter VIII

Tools for Sharpening, Cleaning

### Chapter IX

Cobbler's Tools, Saddler's and Harnessmaker's tools.

### Chapter X

Age — as this applies only to tools used in America, no effort is made to go back of the 17th Century.

Tools of the 17th Century

Tools of the 18th Century

Tools of the 19th Century, up to 1870

The following is a sample page of the above described classification.

## CLASSIFICATION OF TOOLS

### Sample Page of Index

#### Chapter V

Tools for boring or for punching

	page
1. Braces and bits stocks	67
2. Bits	69
3. Boring Machine	70
4. Drills	70

5. Gimlets	71
6. Awls	72
7. Augers	72
8. Reamers	72
9. Bow drill	73
10. Pump drill	73
11. Countersinks	73
12. Punches	74

## CLASSIFICATION OF TOOLS

### Sample page of Classifications

Gimlets	From page 71
Pod	
Shell	
Shell screw	
Twist	
Spike { Shell	
Twist	
Twist or auger	
Bell — 12" to 36" long	
Spout	
Gutter	
Brewers	
Coopers { Wine frets	
Bung ticklers	
Boat builders	
Tap borers	
Tap borers improved	
Gunsmiths	
24" to 48" long	

It will be realized that a small photograph illustrating each type would be the best possible description.

## Exhibiting Early American Tools

(Arranged according to their use in production)

by Stephen C. Wolcott

Reprint from Vol. I, Number 5, May, 1934

In submitting the classification of tools in the February issue of *The Chronicle*, my object was to get criticisms from those who are interested in collecting, as well as from those who, having them, wish to display them to the best advantage under some kind of classification. The one given, I realize, is more fitted for the identification of a tool, or for cataloguing it. We are trying to embrace two distinct objects under one cover, — one, a grouping of all tools used for similar purposes; the other, an ar-

range of tools for display, at the same time showing their uses or purposes as a classification. Personally, I have found that tools arranged or displayed in groups of one kind, such as those which were used for the same purpose, — all bit stocks, all planes, all levels, all hammers, etc. — arouses the greatest interest, affording, as it does, a series of contrasts or comparisons.

Mr. U. Waldo Cutler, of the Worcester Historical Society, under "Museum Notes," has gone me one better, and, knowing his public — and all publics are alike, — has suggested what promises to be an interesting solution. His wish is to develop interest in the tool by its application, — first, in securing the raw material, secondly, in the processes of production. In other words, he suggests classifying it according to its trade use, or its use in a specified trade.

Working on this basis, I am submitting a proposed arrangement for your criticisms and suggestions. If there is sufficient interest in this idea, I will gladly complete the two trades I have used for its demonstration, as well as many others with which I am familiar. To carry out this idea, anyone wishing such a display could have either line drawings showing the operation of each tool, with the tool, or even small pieces of material in process of being worked with the tool. There is no doubt that the "general public" is more interested in the product than in the means of production. Our object is to attract their attention and lead it to the tool through the method of production, portrayed as well as space and means will allow. We will all agree that the best demonstration would be an old shop, with all the old tools in process of being used. Lacking this, on account of expense and space, let us see what others have done, or use our own ideas. The Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany, has a picture model that gives a splendid idea of the use of lumbering tools, but this again is expensive and takes considerable space. The South Kensington Museum in London has two ways of displaying some of its tools, — one by showing the evolution of a certain type of tool, another by arranging them according to trades. The first requires a large and varied collection; the other will interest those who know something of that trade, but does not catch the attention of the general public.

There are two other ways that suggest themselves, based on Mr. Cutler's idea, — one, by illustrations which may be simple line drawings, showing the operation of a tool, with the tool itself; another, a large picture, — say two feet square, — showing the various processes used, with lines or strings, leading from the illustrated use of a tool to the tool itself. From an educational point of view, this arrangement is, no doubt, of great value as well as interest. I can see cross references to a "use" classification as a catalogue.

Such a display of a complete set of cooper's tools, including the large ones, such as bench, etc., could be shown, if space is limited, in a case two feet wide by ten feet long by seven feet high. This, of course, could be enlarged to advantage, but it will cover the subject. It is evident that this could be placed against a wall, or, as one side of a double case, standing in the middle of a room. They can also be arranged, as described above, in groups of each kind, showing the evolution, in this country, from the primitive home-made tool to the factory product, which came into use about 1820, or to the perfected tool of today.

# The Chronicle

To illustrate Mr. Cutler's ideas:

## CLASSIFICATION OF TOOLS USED

### BEFORE 1840

According to their use in production in specified trades

#### Trade — COOPER

##### Product — Round Barrel Hoopes

Raw Material	Processes
Cutting saplings (Axe, or hatchet)	Starting the split — (Hatchet, draw knife) Splitting — (Splitter, bench-knife, hardwood post) Making bundles of hoops — (Bundling frames, bundler) Trimming bark from ends and edges — (Shaving horse, draw knife) Driving on chime hoop — (Wooden chime, maul) Cutting lock in hoop — (Cooper's adz)

(N. B. — This is only one part of the cooper's work. There would have to be corresponding outlines for staves, headings, assembling of slack barrels, assembling of tight barrels, and one on "white cooperage." In the museum display, however, these could be all arranged in one case.)

#### Trade — WHEELWRIGHT

##### Product — Hubs

Raw Material	Processes
Felling tree — (Felling axe) Cutting stocks — (Crosscut saw) Peeling bark — (Barker, or spud) Drying hole in hub block or stock — (Nose auger)	Shaping — (Lathe, Lathe tools, calipers) Mortising for spokes — (Compass, hub block, mortising chisels, corner chisel or buzz, mallet) Fitting for axle or axle box — (Augers, reamers, hook reamers, boxing chisel, hub boring block or tripod)

The above are offered as suggestions. May we not have your ideas?

## Outstanding Collections

(Continued from Page 48)

devices, together with the tools for candlemaking illustrate one of the many collections which are included.

The Simmons Collection, together with the splendid collection already made by the Staten Island Historical Society, is the only representative collection of American industry, not only within the city of New York but the Metropolitan area with a population of 15,500,000 people. It will furnish the shops and demonstrations of the restored village of Richmondtown, the former county center of Richmond, or Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of the City of New York and a county of the State of New York. This restoration is now progressing under the joint sponsorship of the City of New York

## The E.A.I.A. Library

One of the objects listed by our founders for the E.A.I.A. in the first issue of the *Chronicle* was for our organization "To form a library, or at least a list of books, and their location, dealing with these subjects." 'Subjects' referred to tools, implements, shops, methods of manufacturing, or anything that pertained to early American industries. We have, in the past twenty-five years, collected several books which are now located in Williamsburg, Virginia.

To fulfill our founders original purpose it is the desire of the Editors to search out additional works, catalogues of tools, etc., so that we may have a more useful library. Some of these sources cannot be obtained for our library and we should therefore compile a list of such books, their subject and where they are.

It is our aim and intention to have available to our members a catalogue of these books, those in the EAIA library and those in other locations. To do this we would like to call upon our members for assistance. In the near future we will publish in the *Chronicle* those books we now have available in our library and we would then like to ask you to submit to us other sources you have found useful in furthering your knowledge.

We have in our twenty-five years made the *Chronicle* one of the outstanding sources of information on early American industries; our Whatsit Program is developing into a most useful tool in furthering our thirst for knowledge; and a good library would be one more step in achieving our founders original aim.

## MICROFILM OF THE CHRONICLE

We now have available one roll of microfilm of the *Chronicle*, volumes I through V complete with index for each volume. This may be obtained from Mrs. Frank D. Peirce, our Treasurer.

## FALL MEETING OF 1960

Mr. Edward Durell, Chairman of the Committee on arrangements of meetings has accepted the invitation of Dr. Louis C. Jones, Director of the New York State Historical Association, to meet at Cooperstown in the fall of 1960.

and the Staten Island Historical Society.

George Simmons was one of the earliest collectors of American industry and one of the first members of the *Early American Industries Association*. His contributions are many — auctioneer at our meetings, contributor, and above all one of the outstanding authorities on our early industries. Fate dealt him an unkind blow several years ago when he was confined to bed. He still keeps his spirits and good nature alive and welcomes visitors and letters from his many friends in the *Early American Industries Association*.

r the  
our  
st of  
ects."  
thods  
early  
y-five  
ed in

ne de-  
cata-  
ful li-  
or our  
such

to our  
EAIA  
would  
e near  
ks we  
d then  
u have

*Chron-*  
n early  
eloping  
know-  
step in

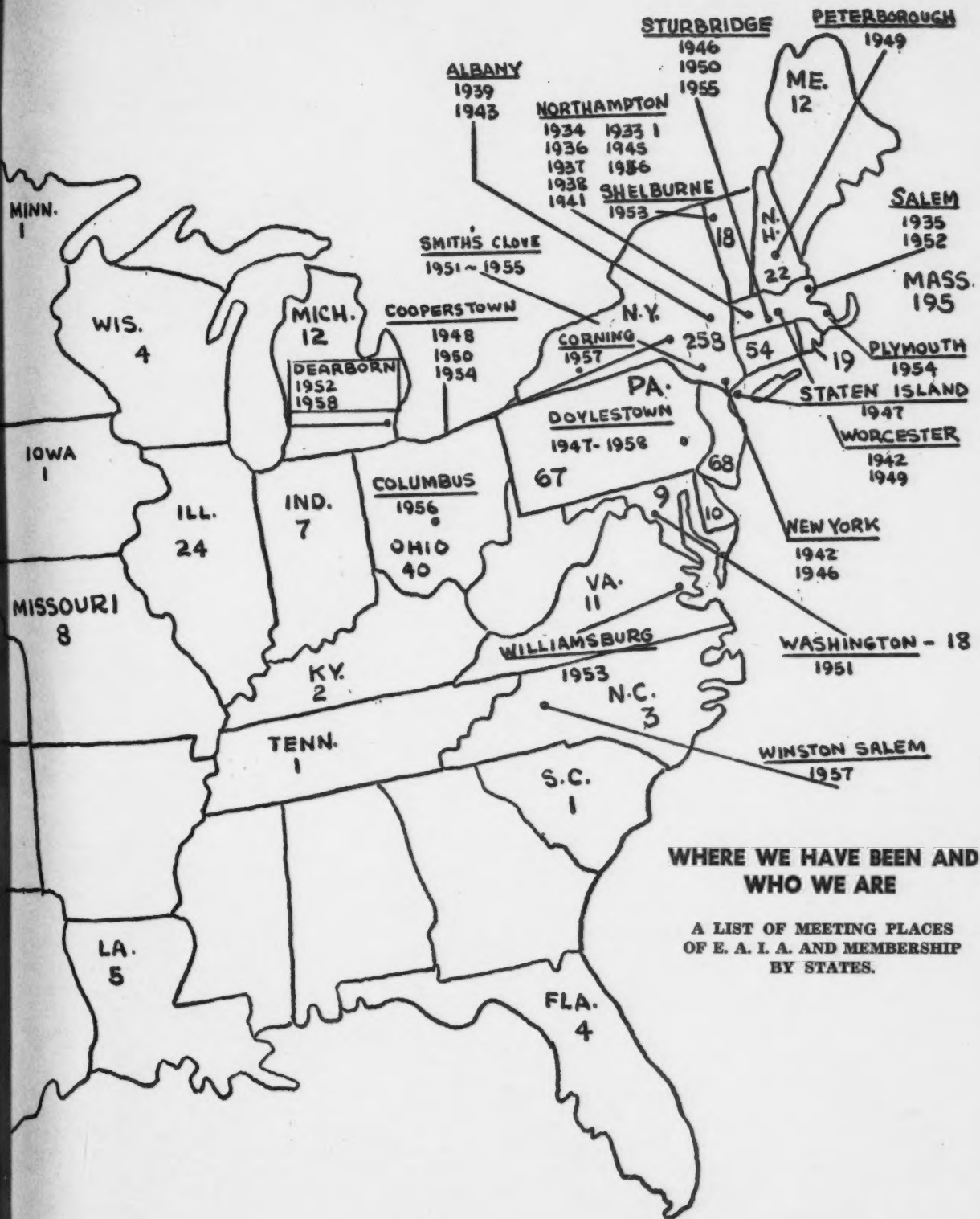
of the  
dex for  
ank D.

ittee on  
tion of  
ate His-  
fall of

ollectors  
bers of  
ontribu-  
ributor,  
on our  
several  
ceeps his  
ors and  
ican In-







## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND WHO WE ARE

A LIST OF MEETING PLACES  
OF E. A. I. A. AND MEMBERSHIP  
BY STATES.

Cover Design and Drawing by Richard J. Stineley  
*Kitchen of Wiggins' Old Tavern, Northampton, Mass.*

